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'TOP PRIORITY' PROGRAM DISCUSSES INF PROPOSAL

LD231715 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 22 May 87

["Top Priority" program presented by Vladimir Pozner with panelists Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov of the USA and Canada Studies Institute]

[Text] Hello. This is Vladimir Pozner presenting "Top Priority." With me on the panel today are Doctors Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov of Moscow's USA and Canada Studies Institute. As you know, "Top Priority" takes a look at the crucial events and issues of the day, and as I see it there are two of them that are attracting worldwide attention presently. One, of course, is the congressional hearings in Washington, and the other is the issue of INF, or medium-range missiles in Europe. Naturally, there are other events of importance, for instance the undoing of Gary Hart, a subject we have not touched upon. Then of course, there was the accidental Iraqian [as heard] rocket attack on the USS Stark which led to the death of 37 American sailors. All of these are important events, but still I believe that the congressional hearings and the INF remains the most important. And since those hearings basically are more an American affair, although they concern other countries, but still they apply more to the way things are done in the United States, I believe that we should concentrate today on INF. And with that in mind, I would like to remind both of your as well as our listeners about the recent decision of the NATO foreign ministers when they were in Norway to call for a global ban on medium-range missiles.

Now, this is somewhat unexpected since there has not been unity in Western Europe concerning the zero option. There has not been a consensus on the desire to have both U.S. and Soviet missiles taken completely out, and in fact destroyed. Certain things were added; certain demands such as talks about short-range missiles; there's been linkage. And now suddenly there's the decision to ask for a global doing-away with medium-range missiles, that is to say, that would include the 100 warheads in Asia. How do you understand that, how do you feel about that? Dr Bogdanov?

[Bogdanov] You know, my impression is that we are witnessing a very big disarray within the NATO ranks. We have a kind of disagreement, worsening of relations between the boss -- let me put it that way -- I mean the leader of NATO, the United States, and the other members of this NATO. And what we witnessed just now, to my mind: It illustrates the disarray, lack of understanding, and the kind of, you know, lack of confidence in themselves, because they -- my impression is they don't know what they want. But at the same time, I believe that they will have to give an answer by the end of June. The beginning of June they meet in Venice, the Big Seven, and they will have to answer not the Soviet Union, not, of course they will have to answer us, but they will have to answer their own public opinion, what is their final decision. Now, as to their demand, request, whatever you call, about zero-zero option.

[Pozer] Global zero option, yes?

[Bogdanov] Global zero option, there is some (?tricking), and it's very (?trick) because as you know, we have suggested to them very recently just about 1 or 2 days ago by the statement of Secretary-General Gorbachev, that they are ready to do, provided you do away with your own INF in three places: In Japan, in Philippines, and in South Korea. (?But) what was the Americans' reaction? No, no, no, we don't have equal systems, they say. That is the whole trick. They compare our INF, our ground missiles, and they say we have no ground missiles.

But at the same time, if you are fair enough and if you don't take the other side for idiots, I'm sorry to say that, you have plenty of cruise missiles with nuclear warheads on the 7th Fleet, you have plenty of aircraft carriers able to deliver nuclear charges against the Soviet Union, and some other things, and if you make a just fair...

[Pozner] Comparison...

[Bogdanov] Comparison between INF that Soviet Union has and USA has you will see of course they are different...

[Pozner] All right...

[Bogdanov] But basically they are...

[Pozner] I understand what you're saying. Now the decision in Norway about the global zero option in being spoken about in the West, at least by some, as a Weinberger victory, whatever that means. Dr Plekhanov, do you agree with what Dr Bogdanov just said? And if you do are we to understand that by a Weinberger victory what is meant is really a ploy that would make it basically impossible for the Soviet Union to agree to ban or to do away with the 100 warheads in Asia. I mean, what is your feeling about this? And what is this business of a Weinberger victory? How do you understand that?

[Plekhanov] Well, if Mr Weinberger continues to be unenthusiastic about arms control, about measures such as elimination of INF from Europe altogether, denuclearization of Europe as such, if that is still his position, then of course this decision by NATO ministers can be interpreted as a Weinberger victory because it puts forward a formula which complicates the reaching of agreement tremendously. If we talk about the global elimination of INF, including 100 warheads which is supposed to be left with the Soviet Union and 100 that will be left with the United States...

[Pozner] In Asia.

[Plekhanov] Yeah, if we eliminate all those missiles, then of course that inevitably raises the problem of the American systems which Dr Bogdanov has referred to, in the Pacific. We have to think of our defense in the Pacific and we cannot be just left without any INF in the face of a huge armada of the American nuclear warheads in that area. So then, but then the United States raises the objection. They say no, no, no, we're not prepared to negotiate (?there). So, we are then thrown into a whole jungle of new difficulties, new equations, new problems from which we have already been able to emerge by agreeing in Moscow, I mean the Russians and the Americans, agreeing to concentrate on the European equation, and to eliminate all INF's from Europe, to agree on elimination of the shorter-range tactical missiles from Europe, and that would be the formula which could satisfy all the objections and all the difficulties which are there. So what I'm talking about is that the European formula, which has been discussed by Secretary Shultz with the Soviet leaders in Moscow, seems to be the optimum solution for now. If we agree on that, later on we can move to the global.

[Bogdanov] And let me just very short comment about the so-called Weinberger victory. I believe (?a) Weinberger victory, and my impression is that his position within this administration's becoming stronger and stronger -- that at some point I'm really afraid that this gentleman will ruin everything. He's getting too much power.

[Pozner] I hear you speak, I hear you being quite negative about the NATO proposal. And yet, the other day, when General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev was hosting his vis-a-vis, his counterpart from Vietnam, he specifically addressed the issue of a global ban, that is of doing away with the warheads in Asia, and he said that, in fact, the Soviet Union was ready to do that... and he said that, of course for this to happen there would have to be certain conditions, such as no military buildup by the Americans in the Philippines, in South Korea, in Japan, certain other items and issues. However, he did say that the Soviet Union is for this. Now, is there any contradiction between what you're saying and what's in that statement?

[Bogdanov] There is no contradiction, there is no contradiction at all. We are ready to do that on the fair base and we have to care about our security as much as the other side has to care about their security. And in that global solution I see only one thing, again trying to move in such a way that to get universal superiority over the Soviet Union. Because if you are fair enough, if you look at that proposal from the absolutely objective, you know, view, you will see what they ask is just unilateral disarmament without any trade-offs, without any compromises. That's what I'm objecting to.

[Pozner] Right...

[Plekhanov] There, there is another...

[Pozner] Yes, Dr Plekhanov.

[Plekhanov] There is another aspect to this idea about global elimination. You know, one of the arguments that the NATO is putting forward in favor of a global ban is that if we simply concentrate on Europe and leave some warheads in Asia, that would tremendously complicate the business of verification. That is a serious argument. And we have responded by putting forward the idea of intrusive verification by both sides, with on-site inspections, with inspectors being able to see the places where the missiles are produced, where they are stored, and so on, to count things, to look into the sheds, so to say, and so on. And that sort of verification is apparently unacceptable to the Pentagon. So by moving toward this global idea they are trying to run away from the idea of intrusive verification, from the ability to control what the other side is doing and to see what he's doing, whether it is fulfilling the terms of the agreement. I think that that's also an important aspect.

[Pozner] So what you're saying basically then is that this proposal, the way it's been made from the West, is really a monkey wrench thrown in rather than a view for a radical step forward, and for in fact, arriving at an agreement that we seem to be, as Mikhail Gorbachev said, steps away now, from finding.

[Plekhanov] Let me put it this way. If the idea of a global ban is not seen, is not put forward as an alternative to the European ban, then we have no objections. Let's remove those missiles from Europe and then let's talk about the global ban. If however, it is seen as something that is to replace the agreement which is now in the making, then of course it is ...

[Pozner] Dr Bogdanov, you are shaking your head.

[Bogdanov] Yes, I am shaking my head, because I...

[Pozner] You don't agree?

[Bogdanov] I cannot, I cannot agree with you, Sergey. I look at that more seriously, and I believe that the Weinberger faction -- I call it the faction -- within this adminstration is trying its last maybe, maybe, last, you know, thing to torpedo the real agreement which is within the reach. That is what I feel. And (?maybe) Secretary Weinberger is just trying to gather around him all the hawks within NATO and to make a united front and to fight (?to the world.) That's my impression.

[Plekhanov] Caspar's last stand. [Pozner laughs]

[Bogdanov] Maybe, maybe.

[Pozner] All right. Now let's look at another very important development that's happened quite recently, what I'm referring to is General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's interview with journalists representing one of Italy's most popular and most widely read newspapers, the Communist Party paper called L'UNITA. And one of the questions that came up was the issue of whether or not the Soviet Union was persistently trying to draw Western Europe away from the United States, to drive a wedge between Western Europe and the United States with this whole issue of INF and General Secretary Gorbachev very clearly indicated that this was out of the question and in fact it was an old thing brought up time and time again to try to scare the West Europeans and, if anything, the idea of getting the medium-range missiles out of Europe is a way of moving towards the very basic and profound proposals that were made by Gorbachev back on 15 January 1986 with the aim of reaching or achieving a nuclear-free world by the year 2000. But what I would like to ask you at this point is the following: If we do get this agreement on INF, if it is signed, if we manage to do something extremely important which is completely do away with a class, an entire class of weapons, something that has never happened before, and something that would be extremely conducive to further progress in nuclear disarmament. If all of this happened, is there not a chance that the present Reagan administration, or perhaps not even, perhaps even the following administration, might take this opportunity to go to its own people and say, now you see, our intentions are honorable, our intentions are peaceful; we have this agreement, we are destroying medium-range missiles, but as a trade-off for that we want to destroy the ABM Treaty? Do you think that's a possibility? How do you feel?

[Bogdanov] Two comments. Number one, on trying to separate Western Europe from United States: I would like to call my American listeners' attention to the last part of that, you know, general secretary's very important statement. He says that we are very pragmatic and realistic people and we don't want to ruin the equilibrium of forces in...

[Pozner, interrupting] ...the balance of forces.

[Bogdanov] The balance of forces in Western Europe. And I would like my listeners at the American end to think it over carefully what does it mean. Number two. I unfortunately in full agreement with you [as heard] and I am thinking along the same lines.

[Pozner] In other words you do think...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] Yes, I do think...

[Pozner, interrupting] That the signing of INF might be used...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] I am not only -- I am sure that in the inner circle discussion at this administration on the very high level they are convincing each other: Okay, we give something to those Russians, but instead of that we'll get, in exchange for that we'll get the ABM Treaty ruined.

[Pozner] What do you think, Dr Plekhanov? Is that a reality?

[Plekhanov] I think there are indicators that such thinking indeed exists in the Reagan administration and some of the conservative circles in Washington. But as I think about that reasoning it really strikes me as very short-sighted. In the first place, an agreement on INF is not a concession to the Russians; this is in the interests of the Americans as well. So this is a mutually beneficial step forward. Secondly, talking about the trade-off: You know, if you stop one dangerous development and open the floodgates to another one and think that you have a balanced policy, that doesn't strike me as a reasonable approach because I think that the INF agreement should be seen as an opening wedge to a whole series of agreements on arms control, because this could be a turning point in the very negative development of the last few years when we were not signing any agreements and the old agreements were falling apart. I would like to challenge this approach head-on, and I don't see how reasonable people, serious people, can support this logic.

[Pozner] Well, let's leave that aside, serious or non-serious. With time running out I'd like to have a very short answer from both of you on the following: If we had thought about this possibility of the American leadership using INF as a trade-off when approaching their own people and the congress and saying look we've done INF, let's move away from ABM, let's do away with that treaty -- if we've thought of that, obviously Soviet leadership has also thought about that. With that in mind do you think Soviet leadership will go ahead and press for INF, for a zero option, anyway?

[Bogdanov] Anyway, it's more important. It's most important now.

[Pozner] You agree with that?

[Plekhanov] Yes, of course, of course.

[Pozner] Thank you very much. This is Vladimir Pozner on behalf of the panel of "Top Priority" wishing you all good listening.

PYADYSHEV ON WARSAW PACT ROLE IN ARMS CONTROL

LD261720 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1145 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] We offer you a broadcast entitled "The Warsaw Pact: A Reliable Instrument for Strengthening International Security." At the microphone is Boris Dmitriyevich Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Agency.

[Pyadyshev] We are on the eve of the latest conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact member-states. Soon, in Berlin, capital of the GDR, where at the moment the 750th anniversary of its founding is being celebrated, the top leaders of the seven allied states will congregate: Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

Each conference of the Political Consultative Committee is not only an important event in the lives of the states belonging to the defense organization of the Warsaw Pact. It is always an important international event. This was particularly so in the case of the meeting of the leaders of the constituent states held in June 1986 in Budapest, at which an Appeal from the Warsaw Pact states to the NATO states, and all European countries was adopted, with a program for the reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe. The allied states then proposed a considerable reduction in all the components of the infantry and tactical strike aviation of the European states, and also in the corresponding forces and equipment of the United States and Canada deployed in Europe. In addition to conventional weapons, operational and tactical nuclear weapons with a range of up to 1,000 km would also have been liable to reduction. Moreover, the geographical zones of the reduction were announced as being the whole territory of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Now here we have a new conference of the Political Consultative Committee. Much may be expected of it. This is a special time just now. Fruitful restructuring is going on in the internal and foreign policies of the Soviet Union; its breath is felt clearly beyond the boundaries of our country, and it is exerting a positive influence on the European situation and on the whole world position. It may be supposed that when they meet in Berlin, the leaders of the allied socialist states will painstakingly examine the situation in Europe and the world, and will analyze the key European and international issues. The starting point for this analysis is the conviction that now, in the nuclear age, there is no task more important than averting war and the maintenance of peace. In the solution of this task, the far-reaching Soviet initiatives in the field of nuclear and space weapons are of principle importance, starting with the historic program for a nuclear-free world put forward on 15 January last year. The Soviet initiatives provide clear guidelines.

I should like, in particular, to emphasize that the allied socialist states fully support all our proposals. That support and that solidarity with Moscow's initiatives intensify their effectiveness. This has yet again, quite clearly, been illuminated during the present visit by the general secretary of the CSPU Central Committee to Romania.

After Reyjkavik the situation was that, from the whole package of issues of nuclear and space weapons, the issue of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe stood out from the point of view of the chance of an accord being reached quickly.

The Soviet leadership, by agreement with its ally states, on 28 February this year spoke out in favor of separating the medium-range missiles from the package of problems and of reaching a separate agreement on these armaments. And now, at the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva, the USSR delegation has a firm mandate to embark upon the elaboration of a specific accord on a whole series of key issues, above all, on the elimination in the next 5 years of all Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, with the retention of only 100 warheads apiece on such missiles in the Asian part of the Soviet Union and on the territory of the United States.

The question is being asked: Why did the Soviet Union agree to the retention of 100 warheads apiece on these missiles? This is, it should be said, the well-known compromise. The U.S. Administration is trying to keep nuclear arms deployed against the Soviet Union in Asia, and this obliges us to seek a response. At the same time, the Soviet leadership has, on a number of occasions, stated its readiness to solve the problem of medium-range missiles on a global basis. There would have been no obstacles to such a solution had the United States agreed to the elimination of its nuclear arms in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, and also agreed to the withdrawal of its aircraft carrier flotilla beyond an agreed boundary. Of course, the United States would not have had medium-range missiles on its own territory. The Soviet delegation at the Geneva talks has a mandate to strive for a quick accord regarding the elimination of Soviet and American operational and tactical missiles in Europe, the establishment of the strictest verification system [sistema kontrolya], right up to on-site inspection, and the fulfillment of the obligations accepted by both sides on this account.

The Soviet Union, as follows from the Budapest program, has also proposed that the issue of tactical nuclear means in Europe including tactical missiles, be examined and tackled at separate, multilateral talks. Moscow has proposed to the U.S. side that the key provisions regarding strategic strike weapons, antimissile defense and nuclear tests be worked out. Together with the signing of a treaty on medium-range missiles, these agreements could be a subject for accord at the highest level and the basis on which legally binding agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States would be prepared. Is the U.S. side ready, is NATO ready to act as dynamically as the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact member states? In Washington and other NATO capitals, statements of cautious optimism may be heard just now on the possibility of concluding an agreement on medium-range missiles. At the same time, the maneuvering of the opponents of accord is clear for all to see. Incidentally, it is evident their arguments are progressively losing their substance and persuasiveness, and are turning into pressurizing [nazhimnyye] and unsubstantiated declarations.

Today I should like to recall something else that has to do with anniversaries. Exactly 15 years ago, on 26 May, 1972 a treaty was signed in Moscow on the restriction of antimissile defense systems. About the same time, some other Soviet-U.S. agreements were concluded, and in all seven joint Soviet-U.S. documents were signed. Unfortunately, only a very few of those agreements have survived to our times. The U.S. Administration has, for one reason on another, finished with most of the documents. Now, it would seem, they have set about in earnest to deprive the ABM Treaty of any sense, or even to scrap it altogether. The socialist states work on the basis that the process of reducing military confrontation in Europe should be a continuous one, and should, at every stage, ensure equilibrium at the level of reasonable sufficiency. Of course, as a result of historic, geographical and other factors, an asymmetry has developed in Europe in the armed forces of the two sides. Taking this into account, the allied countries voice their readiness to eliminate, in the course of reduction, the inequality in certain elements by means of a corresponding reduction on the side that is ahead, but not on account of a build-up on the side lagging behind.

The task of lessening the confrontation of the NATO armed forces and the Warsaw Pact in certain regions of Europe would be in line with the implementation of the proposals of a number of Allied states on the creation on the continent of zones free from nuclear and chemical weapons. A substantial role could be played by the fulfilment of the proposal of Czechoslovakia and the GDR concerning a non-nuclear corridor along the line of contact between the Warsaw Pact and NATO with a width of 300 km.

The allied states believe that the issue of military doctrines is an issue of no little importance for an assessment of the true intentions of military-political groupings, as indeed of individual states. Now this issue is acquiring a particular topicality. It is essential to remove the mutual suspicion and lack of trust, to thoroughly get to grips with the anxieties of one another on this question. In the interests of security in Europe and the whole world, the military conceptions and doctrines of the military alliances should be based on defensive principles. As far as the military doctrine of the allied socialist states is concerned, it presupposes the maintenance of equilibrium of the armed forces at the lowest possible level, and the reduction of the military potentials to the limits of reasonable sufficiency. That is, to the limits that are necessary exclusively for defense.

The upcoming Berlin conference of the Political Consultative Committee will, without doubt, stress the topicality of the efforts of the allied states toward putting an end to the division of the continent into opposing military blocs, and toward strengthening the bridges of cooperation between Eastern and Western Europe. Bulgaria, for example, proposes holding an ecological forum, at which specific steps to maintain and protect the environment of our continent could be discussed and worked out. Hungary actively backs an extension of the cultural exchanges between the peoples of Europe. Poland has put forward a package plan for the reduction of armaments and the deepening of trust in Central Europe. An active proponent of the politics of peace is Romania. Together with Bulgaria, it is the initiator of the creation on the Balkan peninsula of a zone free from nuclear and chemical weaponry.

Today's Warsaw Pact is a dynamic and effective association of allied states. the mechanism of interaction works smoothly between all the countries. It has now become a rule that conferences of the Political Consultative Committee are held at least once a year. The Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs meets twice a year. The ministers of defense of the allied states meet regularly. I particularly wanted to noe that at various levels -- at the level of ministers, of deputy ministers, of experts from the most varied ministries -- active, rich consultations, discussions and exchanges of opinion are held. The socialist countries are striving for greater dynamism in their foreign political cooperation, for a further improvement in its machinery, for the strict observance of the principles of equality and mutual responsibility in the system of political relations between states.

The upcoming Berlin conference of the Political Consultative Committee is awaited by the world as a major, international event. An international press center has begun functioning in Berlin, and numerous representatives of the European and world press are now converging on the GDR capital. There is no doubt that this meeting of the leaders of the allied socialist states, and the decisions adopted at the Berlin conference of the Political Consultative Committee will justify the hope that the struggle for the consolidation of European security and international cooperation will unfold with renewed strength.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON SEVERAL ISSUES

European Missile Stance

LD261540 Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS -- Intensive bilateral and multilateral consultations are conducted in the NATO countries on the Soviet proposal for scrapping shorter-range missiles from Europe along with the intermediate-range forces. However, a constructive response has not been received from it as yet, Yuriy Gremitskykh, first deputy head of the Information Directorate of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said here today.

He told a briefing for Soviet and foreign reporters here that the NATO allies were working on a common reply. In Britain, for instance, as it can be seen from press reports, numerous reservations to a future answer are worked out so that it could be interpreted as both positive and negative. In France, they are busy intensively building up to their stance of an outside observer: The problem of shorter-range missiles allegedly does not concern France.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman dwelt, in particular, on the stand by the West German Government. The attempts by some West German politicians to compile a new list of conditions which can torpedo progress that shaped up in Geneva give rise to amazement, he said.

It is absurd, for instance, to demand that U.S. nuclear warheads to the Bundeswehr "Pershing-1A" missiles be preserved and call for a further build up of shorter-range missiles at a time when the Soviet Union is ready to eliminate this class of nuclear weapons.

The argument about West Germany's exceptional vulnerability to Soviet tactical nuclear weapons also looks inconclusive. If there really is such a concern why then the proposal by the German Democratic Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic for setting up a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe is rejected?

This initiative, once implemented and coupled with the double zero variant for intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, proposed by the USSR, would lift such apprehensions. And the creation in central Europe of a zone free of chemical weapons alongside a reduction in troop concentration along the line of the two blocs' contact and withdrawal of the most dangerous offensive types of conventional armaments from this zone, as is proposed by socialist countries, would lead to a marked strengthening of West Germany's security on the whole.

The Federal Government should adopt a clear stand as to whether it really wants to have intermediate- and shorter-range missiles dismantled and if its previous unambiguous statements on this score are valid.

Considering the role which is assigned to West Germany in solving the missile issue and also the critical nature of the time factor for a success of the Geneva negotiations, we are justified in expecting a responsible approach by the West German leadership to settling this acutest problem of European security, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized.

Persian Gulf, UK Weapons

PM270955 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

["USSR Foreign Ministry Spokesman's Statement" under the rubric "Facts, Events, Opinions"]

[Text] Recent events are evidence of the fact that the Iran-Iraq armed conflict, despite the steps being undertaken to end it, is far from being extinguished and on the contrary is flaring up and presenting a threat to neighboring states.

A serious danger has been created for international shipping in the Persian Gulf, a region with extraordinarily intensive maritime communications. More than 300 foreign vessels, including Soviet ones, have already been fired upon or blown up mines. It is known that the recent attack upon the U.S. frigate Stark which was in the Gulf zone led to considerable human casualties. Such a development of events in an area situated in the immediate proximity of USSR territory naturally cannot fail to give rise to serious anxiety on our part.

The situation requires that the international community take urgent and effective measures to prevent its further escalation in an extremely dangerous direction.

However, one cannot but state, for the upteenth time, that the exacerbation of the situation in this region is again being used by the United States to step up its military presence there. Judging by the reports in the press, the aircraft carrier Constellation is to be sent to beef up a large flotilla of U.S. warships in the Gulf. Apart from that the U.S. Navy has already received orders from Washington to open fire on any target "the activities of which are of a threatening nature." This, of course, is not the way to reduce tension or settle the conflict. It is obvious that only a new and dangerous exacerbation of the whole situation, an expansion of the scale of military operations, can result from measures of this kind -- ones entailing the use of force.

It is the USSR's view that stepping up of collective international efforts, above all within the UN framework and on the basis of this organization's charter, so as to put a halt to the military conflict between Iran and Iraq as speedily as possible, is acquiring great importance in the current circumstances. As is known, right from the beginning the USSR's position on this question has been a constructive one: The USSR has been calling on both sides to search for the speediest possible political settlement of all controversial problems by peaceful means and with their legitimate rights and interests taken into account. We are ready to continue to act along this direction and to cooperate with other states.

Reports appeared in the British press in the last few days, citing facts of the covert supply by Britain of sophisticated armaments, including "Blowpipe" portable anti-aircraft missile systems, to the Afghan gangs waging the armed struggle against the lawful Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA).

These facts cannot help generating anxiety, especially since British officials declared on more than one occasion their interest in a political settlement in the region, meanwhile acting as accomplices in the undeclared war against the people of that sovereign country.

The dangerous consequences of the transfer of the latest anti-aircraft missiles to the aforementioned groups are evident both from the point of view of ensuring the security of international civil aviation and of further escalating armed actions against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

This way London extends patronage as well as direct military support to those forces which launch attacks on civilians, are engaged in terrorism against civilian population, try to stymie national reconciliation and hamper thousands of people wishing to return to Afghanistan, their homeland.

Such actions cannot help sparking off serious [seryeznoye] indignation among all those who are interested in the settlement not in word but in deed.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION -- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS'

LD230850 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 22 May 87

["International Situation -- Questions and Answers" program, "recorded during a meeting between young international affairs journalists from All-Union Radio and students and teachers at higher educational establishments in the town of Ivanovo", with unidentified chairman and journalists Petr Fedorov, Sergey Fanton, Viktor Shcherbakov, Dmitriy Morozov, and Igor Charikov]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified speaker] How do people relate to the process of restructuring under way in our country and what is their assessment of it?

[Chairman] Sergey Fanton will answer your question.

[Fanton] Well, I'll probably make no mistake if I say that of the past 10 or 15 years interest abroad in our country is now at its highest, and, of course, this can be accounted for by the processes now happening here. People have various attitudes to it, because the international community is most diverse. In our work we are able to scan the news agencies -- machines for UPI, Reuter, and AFP are permanently in the editorial office -- and so we are always acutely aware of how public opinion abroad reacts to various domestic events here. If you are talking about capitalist countries, it seems to me that it would not be erroneous to say that 11 countries in Europe without exception, and the foremost circles, the businessmen, in the United States link the processes started here to opportunities for wider, more constructive, and open cooperation with us. They think that the processes started here could affect both the economic aspects, that is, say, the creation of joint firms, enterprises and societies, and have a positive influence on the political climate as a whole.

Recently, I happened to read a report from AFP, reporting a major meeting in Paris, France, of representatives at the embassy, the consulate, there with questions about the way in which cooperation will be based in the future, and how to get into contact with Soviet representatives to, say, organize a joint firm.

As yet this process has not yielded fruit, but it is proceeding at full speed. Finland -- a country with which we have long cooperated, and fruitfully, -- is in the forefront here.

The creation of several joint firms is already planned; in particular a tourism firm comes to mind straight away. The Finns are to organize some of the services, to restore some hotels in Moscow and Leningrad, and will then administer the flow of tourists. The profits will be shared.

If you are talking about the socialist countries, there is probably even greater interest there, because, naturally, the socialist countries are our closest partners, both on the political and the economic level, and I think the public in those countries have moved ahead from a standstill. Let's say we are very actively supported in Czechoslovakia, in the GDR, in Bulgaria, naturally. We are being watched with great interest in Poland, a country that -- it is no secret after all, you all know -- has recently gone through difficult times. Talking about that, you can quote the following figures: In 1971 that country's foreign debt, a general indicator, a very important indicator of prosperity, was around $1 billion. Yet in December last year this debt was $33 billion. Well, you can say that today the height of these difficulties, both political and economic, has passed, but Poland will need more than a year to get out of the situation that has developed; no illusions should be cultivated here. The current foreign debt is the eighth largest in the world; before that, it is true, come such countries as Brazil and Mexico, but their foreign debts are simply astronomical.

Positive processes are also now taking place in Poland in the trade union movement. Let us say that at the peak, the greatest activity, of the Solidarity Trade Union around 7 or 8 million people were in it. There are now approximately the same number in the new trade unions, which were formed on different principles and set themselves different aims. Incidentally, it is worthy to note that around 60 percent of former Solidarity members have gone into the new trade unions. But even in Poland, a country in the socialist camp, the public is not all reacting in the same way to our example.

The first group inclines toward Poland having to solve all its problems only through internal means. Indeed, this is not new, many other countries pursue this doctrine, but you certainly cannot call this approach a panacea for all ills. Another group stands, as it were, as a counterweight to that: It advocates, on the contrary, very broad and, at times, I have to say, rash cooperation with the West. You understand that in modern conditions one cannot live in isolation, but on the other hand it is not really worth it for Poland to rely particularly on Western partners, and this was demonstrated particularly clearly by the recent events, when because of various kinds of embargoes and obstacles on trade and in economic relations, where political conditions were introduced, Poland suffered a very serious blow to its economy.

A third group, as in any country, is evidently composed of indecisive people, who both wait for instructions from above and bide their time they don't really count. A fourth group happens to be made of people who look toward the Soviet Union with great interest, who think that somewhat more fruitful cooperation can be set up by means of establishing more direct, specific business ties with the USSR and also with other states, and can solve Poland's current problems.

[Unidentified speaker] Sergey Sergeyevich, if I could continue a bit? Our friends in the socialist countries nevertheless are worried by the question of how the structure of our economic relations with them will change, because certain countries at present are on preferential terms. You know we supply those countries with fuels and cheap raw materials. The raw material prices within CEMA are set at a different rate, after all, from the world market.

This is beneficial for the socialist countries and stimulates development of the economy. Many products from the socialist countries are now imported by the Soviet Union, and are not always of the highest quality. We are now restructuring, and we intend to change the qualitative standard of the output we produce and use. Naturally, these matters worry them. Well, I think they will be solved according to the principle of mutual benefit.

I would also like to add something concerning the attitude to restructuring among public circles in the West. You know that recently in Moscow there was a forum For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity. I should tell you I was able to talk to many delegates, and they begged and prevailed upon us not in any circumstances to lose momentum, in no event to abandon the course that has been taken. Progressive public opinion sees in our successes, as a matter of fact, assistance in solving their own urgent problems. One of them, of course, the most important, is finally starting the process of disarmament, and I happen to think here we can move on: I'll pass the microphone to Petr Rafaelovich.

[Fedorov] Comrades, questions have now come to us in written form. A whole group of these concern the state of affairs at the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva, specifically posing a question that in summary sounds like this: How does it happen that for 2 years, if not more, the mass media stubbornly asserted that the zero option offered by Reagan was not possible, yet now we have agreed to it, and we now appear to be calling the U.S. proposal our own, Soviet, proposal?

[Unidentified speaker] It is just like yesterday; a question was asked from an audience of history teachers, just as curious, saying: Comrades, let's admit all the same that the deployment of the Soviet SS-20 missiles was an impetus toward the present medium-range crisis. That is, Western reasoning on this issue has had a certain influence on people. After the war, when the Soviet Union did not yet have nuclear weapons, when the medium-range class of weapons was not yet in existence, the first atomic weapons in Europe comparable with the present medium-range system weapons were deployed precisely by the Americans on the B-29 bombers in Britain. [passage omitted on U.S. missile deployment through the fifties]

These missiles presented a serious threat to the Soviet Union and, at the end of the 1950s and start of the 1960s, we deployed our first medium-range missiles in response to the actions of the West. These were the SS-4 and SS-5 missiles. Initially they were deployed on the territory of our country, and then we came out with, properly speaking, the first zero option, the first zero solution to the issue of medium-range missiles in Europe. We proposed touching zero, that is, U.S. zero medium-range missiles and Soviet zero medium-range missiles. It was our idea, our Soviet initiative. The West refused, and at that time our SS-4 and SS-5 missiles were deployed on the territory of Czechoslovakia and the GDR. In number, the NATO weapons considerably exceeded everything deployed among Soviet missiles. You have to say that parity in this class of weapons in Europe was attained by the 1970s, when we started to withdraw from combat duty the SS-4 and SS-5 missiles and to replace them with SS-20 missiles. Yet for every three of the old missiles only two new ones were put in place. For some reason the West suddenly got scared. They had repeatedly replaced their own weapons themselves, but the very first Soviet replacement of medium-range missile systems spilled over, as you know, into the NATO two track decision, when they decided on upgrading. [passage omitted on background to deployment of U.S. missiles in FRG]

Concerning our latest proposals -- we won't go through the stages from Reagan's proposal to ours -- the fact of the matter is that we have already made it clear that initially the zero option was ours, a Soviet option. Our current proposals are intended to unravel this knot.

To do this, we have gone as far as removing the medium-range missile issue from the Reykjavik package. We have agreed to link this no longer with the space weapons issue, and here too, questions often come up, asking whether we are not making too many concessions to the West, are we not accepting solutions that would harm the security of our country. You know, it is when you come up against these problems that the logic of the new way of thinking in the nuclear age is apparent.

I'll take up your attention a little longer, because in my opinion mastery of this logic is now essential for everybody. It is true that for a long time diplomacy proceeded from the inherent worth of each separate stage. We now look to the ultimate aim, the ultimate aim being nuclear disarmament, not only in Europe, but in the whole world, by the year 2000. Here, you'll understand, you can get an even deeper and clearer understanding thanks to two recent world events that have very much changed politicians' minds. I mean Bhopal and Chernobyl. You know, a Europe utterly devoid of nuclear weapons would still present a very serious threat to the existence of all mankind even in the event of using conventional weapons. If, say, all nuclear stations in Europe were eliminated, that would lead to mass annihilation. If only the chemicals and pharmaceutical plants were destroyed, that would also lead to mass poisoning -- you recall the dioxin poison story. So brinkmanship with nuclear weapons is losing its sense and, in my view, this argument can also refute the assertions of a number of Western politicians that nuclear weapons are the sole guarantee of maintaining peace in Europe. [Passage omitted noting that a similar argument was used when dynamite was invented]

[Fedorov] Questions, please.

[Koryagin] Andrey Koryagin, of the Komsomol. I have a question concerning Soviet-U.S. relations. I think there is a perfectly logical interest in precisely this area of international relations. The question is this: Can the substantial progress in Soviet-U.S. relations be accounted for only by the new political thinking of the Soviet leadership?

[Unidentified speaker] The level of Soviet-U.S. relations today leaves much to be desired. What can we do about this? We have already done a very great deal; we have proposed that the Americans look at our future with different eyes, the eyes of people of the 20th century, thinking under conditions of an abundance of nuclear weapons.

You know, the positive processes we note from time to time in current life in the United States are, naturally, the result of the insistent and persistent policy being pursued by our present leadership.

[Fedorov] The thing is that Reagan's term in office is coming to an end. There will be elections in 1988, and for his finale the present administration would very much like -- regardless of cost -- that he go down in U.S. history as a man of peace. This is an important factor on which you can calculate -- but you cannot, of course, rely on it, because I recall and you have probably recalled the words of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the news conference in Reykjavik, that we have come to the conclusion that the U.S. President is not at liberty to make his own decisions. As far as the Californian bourgeoisie is concerned, it is not a matter of its empathy or antipathy regarding the Soviet state, the fact is that this young, military-industrial bourgeoisie is built on space and nuclear weapons and on electronics. It can acquire capital only from weapons, only if there are bad relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The factor so well described in the Manifesto [Communist Manifesto of 1848] comes into play: For the sake of a 300 percent profit there is nothing the bourgeoisie would not do. Next question. [passage omitted on discussion of plight of unemployed in West]

[Kukhtarev] Bronislav Kukhtarev from the Power Institute. After the virtual absence of criticism over several decades, our country has, well, you can't say been swept by, but you can probably say that it has had a very wide flow of democracy. So, is our society ready for such democracy, and don't many people see this democracy as anything-goes and anarchy?

[Unidentified speaker] You know, to be honest, I was listening to your question and thinking: What motivated your question? Our ideological enemies assiduously cultivate precisely this point, that the Soviet people are not ready for those very social reforms, social changes, that the Politburo is calling for and the whole party is moving toward. Do you understand? They say the Soviet people are not ready, that they have for too long been in, as they say, a state of subordination, living under a totalitarian regime, and a mass of other stupid things. If you saw a television film shown there in pure form, in pure translation, on former Soviet citizens -- that is, on immigrants in the United States -- the idea of the film was to prove -- this was a hidden idea being brought out, you understand -- that even in, as they say, a free society these former Soviet people are incapable of appreciating democracy. They do not settle down in the United States, not because the United States is bad and does not give them the opportunity, but because they are unable to enjoy this Western democracy. To ask such a question -- are we ready for these changes, ready for the flow of democracy -- in my view, the question being asked is completely wrong. Are we ready? Of course we are ready, to a considerably greater degree than our ideological enemies would like.

[Fedorov] More questions, please.

[Unidentified speaker] Tell us, please, about the so-called International Resistance, a new anti-Soviet organization that has appeared in the West. Lately a group of members of this anti-Soviet organization, Lyubimov and others, issued a so-called open letter, in which they set out their views about restructuring and openness. You can't call this letter anything but an insult to the Soviet people. Tell us, please, in more detail about this letter, and about the International Resistance organization.

[Chairman] Petr Fedorov will answer your question first, and then someone else will go on.

[Fedorov] The fact is that today we cannot speak of the group of 10, who wrote this letter, but 9. One of the people whose signatures are on this letter, the sculptor Ernst Neizvestnyy, said in a conversation with a LITERNATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent in New York that he knew nothing about the content of this letter, that he was told about a letter pertaining to returning to the homeland on the telephone. He said that of course he would agree, he would sign, and so this signature appeared.

He is a man who, on leaving his motherland, thought they were preventing him from doing something and that he could feel some kind of resistance here, whereas over there everything would be easy and out in the open. It transpires, however, that nobody needs his creative output. The paradoxical situation transpires that true creativity, even in conditions of socialism, must overcome some kind of resistance.

The very essence of creativity consists in overcoming resistance -- human inertia, or the ill will of bureaucrats, which we are now beginning to overpower in art. On parting with their motherland, however, they have ended up on the ideological and creative rocks.

[Unidentified speaker] Petr Aleksandrovich, I would like to mention an example. I recently had a meeting with a group, the latest group of people returning from the West. In that group, in particular, was a certain (Klever), an artist from Leningrad, who left our country 10 years ago with his wife and eldest daughter, who was a young girl at the time, and went to live in the West. His works were in the abstract style and he considered that he would not be able to work here. For 10 years he drifted from one country to another, traveling all round Europe and the United States, where his son was born. His main reason for deciding to come back, as he himself told me, was that he became afraid for his young son. He told me that, you know, abstract art is, of course, a thing of the past, but let's look into this a little.

[Chairman] Sergey Sergeyevich Fanton will help us look into it. He had a number of things to add.

[Fanton] Yes, it just seemed to me that you question also contained a query over whether it is worthwhile or appropriate to publish such letters in our newspapers. Well, this may be a debatable issue and, of course, other similar letters will probably not make very interesting reading, but your question itself provides a partial answer. You said that you read it with outrage, I think, or with disgust -- that is the very point of publishing them, if you like.

[Fedorov] I shall now answer a number of questions from students of the Medical Institute. What are the reasons for the intensification of anti-Soviet propaganda in France? And there's a similar question about the reasons for the intensification of anti-Sovietism in the FRG. One might also have mentioned outbursts of anti-Sovietism in Britain and the United States as well. The thing is that at the very moment when our country, as a most authoritative power, finds itself at the apex of events, riding a wave of popularity in the West, and when it is winning unprecedented sympathy among the thinking part of the intelligentsia -- as Viktor Leonidovich has already mentioned -- it immediately becomes necessary to check this process a little, to drop a fly in the ointment. You will recall the uncontrollable wave of spymania which preceded the visit to Moscow by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. These are attempts to vilify our country at a time when we are making a peace offensive.

[Unidentified speaker] I would like to add a word or two to what my colleague Petr Fedorov has just said. You know, these outbursts of anti-Sovietism in the West occur, let's be frank, with a sort of enviable regularity. I would explain the present outbursts of anti-Sovietism in the Western countries -- in France, for example, the FRG, and, naturally, the United States above all -- by the fact that our country is now engaged in very important transformations at home, in the economic and social spheres without mentioning the fact that our country has set an example of new political thinking by putting forward a whole range of global initiatives in the area of disarmament. It is to stop the growth of the Soviet Union's prestige and popularity among the population in the West that these types of actions, of a clearly provocative nature, are being undertaken. Anti-Soviet films -- even serials -- are being made. Various kinds of spy stories are being fabricated; and all sorts of fairy tales and absurdities are being thought up concerning our colleagues working abroad. All this is done with one and the same purpose. But actually we are prepared for this; we are not afraid.

We know that when such a campaign gets under way one merely has to behave steadfastly and confidently, knowing that we are really not as bad as they paint us. [passage omitted on the Sikh problem]

[Zabugov] Vladimir Zabugov, from the university. Could you tell us about Soviet-Cuban military cooperation and about current difficulties in Soviet-Cuban relations?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, to begin with I shall talk simply about our relations with the Cubans. You know Cuba is at the moment in a difficult economic situation. If I'm not mistaken, the national product grew last year by only 1 percent which, I think, is abnormal or anomalous for a socialist country. Above all, the Cubans' main problems are low quality and poor labor organization. They have given principled assessments of these phenomena and Fidel Castro has frequently spoken on those issues, and they are now moving onto a restructuring of their own. We assist Cuba quite a lot -- that is our internationalist assistance -- and we should not forget that in good weather the United States can be seen from Cuba. The experience of 1961 showed that the Americans behave quite aggressively -- you will recall the 1961 aggression by mercenaries. If we add to this the Grenada events of 1983, we can imagine just how important our assistance is to Cuba.

Naturally, there is also military cooperation. We train Cuban soldiers and they, of course, are armed by us with our weaponry. Their military construction is proceeding, in part, according to some of our examples. As you know there are Soviet soldiers in Cuba, but I should also remind you that there is a U.S. military base in Cuba as well. All these issues must be taken into account. There is very close military, economic, and political cooperation and it is line with the significance attached to that country.

[Chairman] Over to Sergey Fenton, who will reply to a written question.

[Fanton] There are many questions and some of them are written in such small handwriting with so many subpoints that I can hardly see them. Nonetheless, to take them in order, the first one here is from Yurig Goltsov, from Ivanovo State University. He writes that, for many of his coursemates, Albania is an enigmatic country and it is difficult to determine, to work out, to understand its foreign policy course. Could you please tell us about the prospects for Soviet-Albanian relations and whether there are positive shifts in this area?

Yes, indeed, for many years Albania has been a closed country and journalists are no great exception in this respect. There are practically no foreign correspondents in the country and amongst the flow of information arriving in our editorial office one only very rarely comes across small items about Albanian customs or cultural traditions. The information we receive has very little bearing on politics. The country has been living in virtually total isolation; it had relations only with China, but for the most part has been totally self-reliant.

One cannot, on the whole, say that such a policy has brought great results, despite the fact that there is absolutely no unemployment in the country at the moment and that there is no destitution. Albania's average level, compared, say, to neighboring countries, is extremely low.

The country's main wealth is made up of oil, which it exports, and chromium ore, which is very valuable. Albania is the second largest supplier of chromium in the world, and this, incidentally, is why many European states, especially the FRG, are very interested in contacts with Albania. Strauss was in Albania very recently, so evidently they are interested in purchasing this raw material. Incidentally, prices have never once risen throughout Albania's entire history -- a fact which, in deed, testifies to a certain stable level, if not a high one.

It is true that Albania has recently been retreating from its policy of isolation; perhaps, incidentally, under the influence of China, which is also now actively expanding its contacts with foreign states, both capitalist and socialist. Albania maintains relations and trade with its immediate neighbors, France, Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia. Last year a railway line was built to link Albania to the international railway network for the first time.

As for cooperation prospects, by the way, we are watching Albania attentively and hoping for changes for the better. I think that's just about all that can be said on the subject. [passage omitted on young people's contribution to restructuring and the Komsomol congress]

[Chairman] Next question, please.

[Romanchuk] Anatoliy Romanchuk from the Medical Institute. Many questions concern our eastern neighbor, China, with whom, at last, relations have been getting under way recently. What kind of relations does China have today with Vietnam, Taiwan, and India? That's the first question. The United States has recently begun showing certain Soviet television broadcasts. Will U.S. broadcasts be shown here, or if not U.S. television then at least the film The Day After about a nuclear disaster?

[Chairman] Our colleague is preparing to reply to the first five questions. [laughter]

[Fanton] You know, we are already showing such broadcasts. After all, everything that Phil Donahue filmed here was U.S. broadcasts. But we show them, too, and it should be said that the film, the television film, on how former Soviet people, our former countrymen, live in the United States, was also a U.S. film. I do not think that our Soviet television shows fewer U.S. broadcasts than U.S. television shows Soviet ones.

[Charikov] You know, I would perhaps also join in the reply to the second part of your vast question. You said it has been reported here that the United States has taken some of our television broadcasts and that they have been shown, on the whole, successfully. But, one has to look at it from the point of view of commensurate possession of information. To what extent are we informed about the situation of, and life in, the United States, and to what extent are they, the Americans, informed about our lives? There is a ratio here of, well, let's say, 1 to 100, because we know considerably more about America than they do [as heard] and our knowledge is considerably more profound. Here I mean more not only regarding the volume of information, but also in the number of people who are informed.

Next, we show events abroad, and particularly in the United States and the West, to a considerably greater extent than they do, I'm telling you this as a person who has spent several years working in the United States and Austria.

We show the very latest television news -- well, perhaps not exactly up-to-the-minute, perhaps things that happened yesterday -- but that is not our fault. We receive it late, through the Eurovision channels. We show what is happening in their countries which they, incidentally do not do.

By the way, despite the abundance of television output in the United States, the amount worthy of being shown to our people, with their level of preparedness, with their spiritual needs, with their, if you like attitude toward other people and toward society -- should we really show those broadcasts? Would you be interested, for example, in watching various kinds of contests -- quiz programs -- which are terrifically popular in the United States? Shows in which you have to name a tune or decide how much something costs? It's all so narrow-minded, and to such an extent aimed at the U.S. man-in-the-street that it would simply be incomprehensible to us. Then you yourselves will start being offended because we're showing you uninteresting broadcasts. It's also a fact that the Americans are not always willing to enter into exchanges of television output with us; they are not always willing to enter into exchanges with us. They themselves hamper such exchanges.

But let's move onto China now -- Dmitriy Vladimirovich Morozov.

[Morozov] As for the first group of questions, which concern, I think, not just China, but politics in the Oriental countries as a whole, they are, in fact, bound up in such a knot of political conflicts of interest at the moment, that it would take hours to go into them. I shall simply try to cover certain points. Look at what's happening at the moment: We have always stated, and our leaders have stated at every responsible forum, that the Soviet Union advocates good, good-neighborly, and friendly relations with China, and we cannot fail to be pleased now that a certain warming-up of our relations is taking place -- and it is unquestionably underway, although it's a slow process. At the same time, there are a great many delicate issues here and it is probably difficult to say how far the process will go and to what extent it will be significant.

Regarding relations between the states in that region as a whole, you know, at one point India had a very serious conflict with China over the northeastern territories and there is still tension today on that border. You know that China has close relations with Pakistan, whereas India is our traditional ally in Asia. India is a major country in the Noinaligned Movement and, for that reason, it is very important for us that it should retain friendly relations with us.

It is probably difficult, for the moment, to say how events will be resolved and in what direction they will move. It's obvious the process now underway in Afghanistan, the process of national reconciliation, a process which, of course, takes more than just one day or one month -- but one way or another, if they succeed in teaching this reconciliation and Afghanistan becomes peaceful once again, and if terrorists stop crossing into Punjab in India from Pakistani territory then obviously relations in the region as a whole will improve as well. [passage omitted]

[Lavrentyev] Sergey Lavrentyev from the law faculty. I would like to ask you to explain, from you own stance, your own point of view, to what degree events in domestic and international life are being covered more objectively by the Soviet Union's mass information media?

[Chairman] I think we'll give the floor to Igor Pavlovich Charikov to start off.

[Charikov] Well, the thing is that the restructuring has of course affected the mass media to a considerably greater degree than you might think. Let's take the example of broadcasting by All-Union Radio, where we work. You may have noticed our broadcasting has significantly altered the manner and form in which information is conveyed. Let's begin with the newly-appeared Youth Channel, as it is called. This Youth Channel is on the air in the mornings and is popular -- or at least we know that is in Moscow -- because the young journalists work in an original way and have a very informal manner in the studio. Incidentally, they conduct the broadcasts directly from the studio which any preliminary recordings or materials. That's one feature, but not the only one to play a role.

Let's now move on to us, the International Editorial Office and Mayak's Latest News. We are also working in a new manner. We have begun to -- well I shouldn't say begun, because there was no sort of command from above telling us: Comrades, now you can tell it all. There was no command. We were moving toward this. We were morally prepared for it, and if there was something holding us back then it was a kind of inertia from the past. Now, for example, we are handling with complete freedom such things as quotations from foreign sources, e.g. Voice of America, Deutsche Welle, or Radio Canada. In the morning, for example, we look through short summaries of all the programs broadcast that same morning and toward evening our commentaries are already prepared. We're not afraid. We now bring up questions in a considerably more broad manner and use a considerably greater quantity of information sources than was previously the case. We've begun a morning broadcast from 0600 to 1000 giving it, for the moment, that very name: From Six to Ten. It's an information program incorporating music, news, commentaries, interviews and anything at all, a compact and rich information broadcast to usher people into the day.

Thus, we are now exerting immeasurably greater effort to ensure that our public, our audience, is not felt out of what is happening both in our own country and, in our case, events abroad. I should tell you we have already seen some signs of feedback. The letters we receive are already mentioning that certain successes, certain shifts, one could say, are taking place. After all, there's no point in hiding the fact that until recently there was a widespread view that Soviet radio and television were slow, that they did not talk about what was happening, that they only said what was advantageous for us, and that we said nothing about the fact that they were saying bad things about us in other countries -- that view was widespread. Sometimes people took the liberty of listening to Western radio stations. By all means please do, it's not banned in our country, after all. It's a matter for you and your conscience, so to speak. Nonetheless, we are taking all this into account in our work and, as I have already mentioned, are exerting immeasurably greater effort to win back our own audience, to earn its confidence, to enjoy this prestige to properly be more than just a source of information, but to be an adviser and, if you like, to be an intimate friend as well.

This is one of the reasons we have decided to meet you live, as they say, not to communicate through notes, but to come to you, talk to you and find out what motivates your questions and how your interests are formed. This is very important for us, and it is one example of, let's say, restructuring both of our own consciousness as propagandists and of the work of all the mass information media.

WEINBERGER VOICES 'ANTI-SOVIET RHETORIC' IN BRUSSELS

LD270822 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1624 GMT 26 May 87

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Igor Charikov; Igor Surguchev commentary]

[Text] [Charikov] U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who is in Brussels to take part in a series of NATO conferences, has delivered a speech to senior officers of the Belgian Armed Forces. The head of the Pentagon; according to the UPI agency, devoted most of his speech to attacks on Soviet society. My colleague Igor Surguchev has a more detailed analysis of the U.S. defense secretary's speech:

[Surguchev] Anti-Soviet rhetoric is Caspar Weinberger's favorite hobbyhorse from which, it seems, he never dismounts. There would be no need to dwell on one more exercise in anti-Soviet eloquence by Cap -- as he is widely known beyond the ocean -- were it not for one noteworthy circumstance: This time, Weinberger decided to deliver a blow against our restructuring and openness -- that is, those phenomena of present-day Soviet reality which not only find support in wide circles of the Western public but are also positively appraised by many responsible state and political figures in the NATO countries. It is sufficient to recall what was said about the restructuring and openness by the head of Britain's Government, Thatcher, France's Prime Minister Chirac, and U.S. congressmen who recently visited the Soviet Union, in order to understand how permeated with the spirit of the cold war are the pronouncements by the head of the Pentagon.

Here, for example, is what he said: Beyond the openness there looms the specter of the KGB and we have to remember that the screen of changes still conceals the communist system. In explaining to his audience what kind of a system it is, Weinberger applied a liberal dose of swearwords such as tyranny, progency of evil, while generously quoting from Churchill's ill-famed Fulton speech which marked the beginning of the cold war. What else can this be but desperate attempts to suppress the sprouts of new and realistic thinking in the West and to return the world to that dark period in the history of relations between the East and the West which, in the opinion of all sensible, peaceloving people on earth, canot be allowed to recur?

Presumably it was not accidental that such an arrant anti-Soviet speech, containing malicious fabrications regarding the restructuring in our country, was delivered in Western Europe and addressed to a West European audience. Giving their interpretation of restructuring and openness, the militarist and frenziedly anti-Soviet circles beyond the ocean decided, using Weinberger as a mouthpiece, to refute the opinions of such figures as Thatcher and Chirac, and in one go of all those in Western Europe who positively perceive the deep revolutionary changes in the USSR's domestic and foreign policies. But these changes are real. They have beneficial effects on the international situation and cannot be blackened by any Weinbergers pining for the days of the cold war.

[Charikov] I would like to continue with the subject to which my colleague Igor Surguchev has just referred. Judging from reports from Brussels, Weinberger is trying, and not altogether without success, to set the tone of the general discussion at a session of the NATO Military Planning Committee which started today. The head of the U.S. military department could hardly have been expected to make some sort of peace-making speech, especially as he is well known as an indomitable hawk.

He has again confirmed his reputation at Brussels. He declared, in part, that the Reagan administration -- which, by the way, has only just over a year to go -- intends to continue adhering to the doctrine of so-called nuclear deterrence. Well, the word deterrence in itself has no aggressive sense, although in reality this Washington doctrine presupposes ensuring U.S. military superiority by way of quantitative accumulation and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons.

Of course, the argument about the so-called Soviet threat, which Washington uses to justify its neoglobalist ambitions, was not left out. One could say that the prelude performed by Weinberger set the key for the remainder of the session of the NATO Military Planning Committee which, as I have already mentioned, started today. NATO member-countries' higher ranks gave consent for continuing the Washington strategy, raising military spending in their countries, and increasing the purchases of arms and munitions from the United States. The NATO military have essentially conveyed that they are not prepared to give up the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons on the territory of Western Europe.

HOUSE CUT IN DEFENSE FUND 'BLOW' TO WHITE HOUSE

PM221409 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 May 87 Second Edition p 5

["Commentator's Column" by Vitaliy Gan: "Signs of Common Sense"]

[Text] Washington -- The U.S. House of Representatives has approved the Pentagon's draft budget, which is considerably at variance with the government's request. By 239 votes to 177 congressmen voted to allocate the Defense Department $289 billion in the next fiscal year as against the $312 billion envisaged by the administration. This is a considerable blow to the White House's prestige.

The press is making it plain that the vote represents an "outright challenge to Reagan's actions in the arms control sphere." There is justification for such a conclusion. Besides cutting $23 billion from the appropriations requested the congressmen also added a number of amendments to the draft law aimed at curbing the Pentagon's appetite.

For example, a provision has been ratified which confirms the original interpretation of the ABM Treaty and, consequently, prohibits the deployment of the SDI system in space. The very request for $5.7 billion for work to implement the "Star Wars" program was cut to $3.1 billion. It is also planned to refuse funds for the deployment of armaments which exceed the framework of the Soviet-U.S. SALT II treaty. This amendment also demands the dismantling of those systems which have exceeded the set limits. Furthermore, the congressmen voted to impose a 1-year moratorium on the testing of nuclear devices with a yield of more than 1 kiloton on condition that the USSR shows similar restraint. The ban on ASAT antisatellite system tests, in force since 1985, was also confirmed.

Nevertheless, the Pentagon is continuing to make demands. It is clear from the military department's secret report, which ultimately reached Congress, that the military is insisting on testing four space-based systems, which represents a gross violation of the ABM Treaty.

The draft military budget is being passed to the Senate for examination. The situation that has arisen in the Senate also indicates that the administration's policy is finding increasing resistance there. For example, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has adopted a resolution demanding that the administration abide strictly by the ABM Treaty's provision.

All this, of course, does not make it possible to speak of an abrupt turnaround on Capital Hill. But at the same time, it does provide evidence that there is an ever-increasing recognition there of the need for more realistic approaches.

SENATOR WARNS OF 'UNRESTRAINED' ARMS BOOST EFFECT

LD251422 Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Washington May 25 TASS -- Speaking at the Senate Senator William Proxmire reported that the Reagan administration intended to add one more launcher for strategic weapons.

The senator said that the terrible and senseless nuclear arms race continued, ruthlessly and inexorably pushing the civilisation to destruction. Are not there any restrictive measures in the arms control area which could put an end to this senseless, costly and useless race leading to destruction? There are no such measures, the Senator stressed, because since December last year the Reagan administration unilaterally exceeded the limits set by the Soviet-American SALT-2 Treaty on the number of strategic bombers armed with cruise missiles.

Since then, Proxmire continued, new and new [as received] bombers with cruise missiles on board have been added to the American arsenal. With the arrival of yet another B-52 aircraft their number will reach 142. Such unrestrained build-up in the armoury, the senator warned, can not but prompt reply measures from the Soviet Union. Asking why that senseless nuclear arms race continued, Proxmire himself gave the answer: because the USA refused to observe the SALT-2 Treaty.

ANTIMISSILE SYSTEM AGAIN TESTED OVER WHITE SANDS

LD222234 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] The United States has again tested its antimissile system, destroying a missile in flight over the White Sands testing site in New Mexico. The launching was carried out on the eve of the 15th anniversary of the Soviet-American Antiballistic Missile Treaty, which categorically bans such tests. Lately the Reagan administration has taken the course of undermining the agreement which hampers the spread of the arms race to space, and the implementation of the Star Wars program.

SPOKESMAN DENOUNCES U.S. MOVES AGAINST JOURNALISTS

LD261340 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1303 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 26 May (TASS) -- At a briefing which took place here today, a representative of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned discriminatory measures against journalists of a number of socialist countries who are finding it more difficult to visit the U.S. State Department press center. One cannot rule out that these measures are aimed at provoking steps in response by the Soviet side against U.S. journalists in the USSR, he noted.

This unfriendly act by the U.S. side is a new violation of its obligations, and in particular those under the Helsinki final document. We will not be pushed along by the U.S. Department of State and, strictly observing our international obligations, we are not going to take measures in response, the spokesman of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed.

WAKIL BRIEFS SHEVARDNADZE ON RECONCILIATION, TRIP

LD261440 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1345 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Moscow 26 May (TASS) -- Today Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, had a meeting with Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of foreign affairs, who is in Moscow on his way home after visiting the CSSR, the Polish People's Republic, and the Bulgarian People's Republic.

A. Wakil provided information on the progress of implementing the program of national reconciliation in Afghanistan and cited specific facts demonstrating the extension of this process. Already more than 1,600 commissions for national reconciliation have been set up in Afghanistan, in provinces, and in smaller administrative districts [uyezd y volost]. More than 1,800 jirgas (assemblies) of peace have been held in which the participants have voiced resolute support for the efforts of the government to rapidly normalize the situation through national dialogue. Nonparty figures occupy many leading posts, including the first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, six ministers, and eight governors, two of whom formerly took up arms against the government.

About 50,000 Afghan fugitives have returned to the country from Pakistan, Iran, and other countries. Under the DRA Council of Ministers, the Chief Directorate for Repatriate Affairs has been set up, which is efficiently coping with rendering aid to Afghan citizens returning home.

A. Wakil also told of the DRA's growing foreign political links, and of the broad international support gained by the policy of national reconciliation and the political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan. He provided information on his visits to the CSSR, the PPR, and the Bulgarian People's Republic, and stressed the importance of the contacts that are developing between the DRA and India.

The Soviet side expressed total support for the course being pursued by the DRA leadership. E.A. Shevardnadze confirmed that the Soviet Union is prepared to continue rendering assistance and help to friendly Afghanistan in its efforts to halt the bloodshed and ensure the economic and social development of the country.

The talks passed in a cordial, comradely atmosphere.

ALMALYK MONUMENT HONORS SOLDIERS KILLED IN DRA

PM261359 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 26 May 87 p 3

[L. Lavrina report: "In Memory of the Internationalists"]

[Text] Almalyk -- Construction of a memorial to internationalist servicemen has been completed in Almalyk.

An area paved with granite slabs, a curved stone wall. At the foot of the wall stands a monument whose granite slab bears the inscription: "In Eternal Memory of the Internationalist Servicemen Who Performed Their Duty in the DRA."

All were Komsomol members. Each one was posthumously awarded the Order of the Red Star for bravery and heroism in the execution of combat tasks.

In combat with the dushmans, Aleksandr Goriskiy protected his commander from an enemy bullet, Georgiy Bryukhovetes led his comrades against the enemy under strong fire....

The unveiling of the monument was attended by former internationalist servicemen, war and labor veterans, and representatives of the city's labor collectives and public organizations.

PRAVDA DENIES DUSHMAN INCURSIONS INTO USSR TERRITORY

PM261111 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 May 87 Second Edition p 6

[Correspondent N. Gladkov report: "Quiet on the Border. Groundlessness of the Myth of Afghan Dushmans' 'Incursions' onto USSR Territory"]

[Text] Southern Border of the USSR -- The cotton fields of Hero of Socialist Labor Bazar Rakhmanov's team on Termezskiy Rayon's "40 Let Oktyabrya" Kolkhoz border the Amudarya, which separates the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. Small settlements on the opposite side are clearly visible from our right bank. I glanced continually in that direction, while the team leader looked more and more at the young cotton shoots and said unhurriedly:

"Ours is the biggest team in the rayon. Last year it handed over to the state 700 tonnes of cotton, and this year we are thinking of handing over 1,000 tonnes. This is how our kolkhoz members live, with concern for the harvest."

The team leader introduced me to tractor driver A. Yadgarov. He was already cultivating his plot for the second time. Nearby his comrade D. Allaberdyyev was cutting irrigation furrows. Irrigation workers D. Agamametov, T. Babamuradov, and S. Imamov had just let water into the fields and were now seeing that it did not wash away the rows but reached every little cotton bush. A large group of women was thinning out the crops. It was clear from the way people were working calmly and assuredly that the proximity of the border did not worry them.

D. Abdulkhakimov, first secretary of the Termezskiy party raykom, said that representatives of one of Afghanistan's northern provinces recently visited the rayon. They familiarized themselves with the work of the village soviet, inspected fields and livestock units, visiting kolkhoz members' homes, and were invited to a wedding on the Zhdanov Kolkhoz. They agreed to hold such meetings more frequently.

Over 3 days I visited many farms in the border zone of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Everywhere I saw the same picture of a regular life filled with routine workdays. In Gagarinskiy Rayon, in the floodplain of the Amudarya, for example, there are three rice-growing sovkhozes -- the Pravda, Iskra, and Shalikor. I drove around almost all the Pravda Sovkhoz lands with T. Khushbakov, its director. In the settlement of Gagarino I met with the directors of the Iskra and Shalikor Sovkhozes, the rayon's leaders, and farmers.

Yes, the border is nearby, but the people who live here are confident that any sally from the other side, if they dared to carry one out, would be nipped in the bud. There have been dushman attempts to carry out provocative sallies on the Afghan-Soviet border. And everyone knows how they ended -- in a crushing defeat for the provocateurs.

"It is this confidence," said K. Babakulov secretary of Surkhan-Darya party obkom, "that enables our farmers to calmly carry on business as usual."

I visited border guards and talked with officers, junior commanders, and privates. Each one believes that the country's southern border has always been and will be sacred and inviolable.

On what is this confidence founded?

"First," Major V. Samokhin, chief of staff of a border unit, said, "we have the wherewithal to ensure the border's security. And second, we have the people to suppress any enemy intrigues. The results of socialist competition in the unit were summed up recently. They showed that there has recently been a considerable improvement in the personnel's physical training and combat coordination, The fact that 20 privates and commanders in just one subunit were recently presented with government awards says a great deal. One-third of the unit's personnel have excellent results in combat and political training, and half wear the 'Excellent Border Guard' badge. Each one is ready to fulfill his duty both as a soldier and as a citizen of the Soviet country."

"Contrary to U.S. propaganda claims, there have been no 'dushman incursions' onto Soviet territory either in our sector or in neighboring sectors," S. Boginya, chief of a border post, said.

"Nor will there be," Master Sergeant Yu. Shishinok added. "We are capable of ensuring the border's inviolability and will do so."

"All our inhabitants consider themselves border guards, and each one is ready to come to the assistance of the soldiers in green caps," S. Mamarasulov, first secretary of the Surkhan-Darya party obkom, said.

"Border detail returned from guarding the USSR state border. No signs of violation of the state border detected while on duty," Junior Sergeant V. Vorobyev, detail leader, reported to the chief of the post.

Similar reports came in from the posts. Summing them up, Maj V. Samokhin, border unit chief of staff, reported to his superiors in my presence: "There have been no incidents."

The allegations recently disseminated by certain American publications that armed gangs from Afghanistan cross the border with the Soviet Union almost regularly are nothing but pitiful attempts to pass off what is desired as something real, dushman stories that have been picked up in an anti-Soviet propaganda ecstasy. And my conversation about this with those whom I met in the border zone merely bewildered them and made them smile.

CLAIMS OF MILITARY SUCCESSES 'DUSHMAN BLUFF'

PM261319 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[Report by own correspondent V. Okulov: "So Much For the Dushman Bluff. The Vain Efforts of the Purveyors of Life"]

[Text] Kabul, 16 May -- Boasting is a sign of impotence, the Afghan saying goes. It comes to mind when one learns of the dushman leaders' big talk about their military successes. But some undiscriminating U.S. press organs, like TIME magazine, are happy to pass on these communiques.

These statements might best be described as laughable. But is there something behind them, do they have some purpose? Let us try to find out.

It is 4 and 1/2 months since the DRA state authorities started actively implementing the course of national reconciliation. It is 4 months since the day of the unilateral ceasefire by the republic's armed forces. In what way has the Afghan situation changed? A difficult question, and there is no simple answer at the moment. But it is already apparent that the idea of halting the fratricidal war and of national reconciliation is becoming more and more deep-rooted and is acquiring more and more support.

Suffice it to say that over 20,000 rebels have already gone over to the side of people's power. Talks are under way with another 1,100 dushman groups. Clearly the armed potential of the antigovernment forces is weakening.

More than 4,000 representatives of the opposing side have become members of emergency commissions on reconciliation at local level -- in villages and districts. this means a coalition administration essentially exists in the country. While the extremist-minded counterrevolutionary leaders who have ensconced themselves in Pakistan refuse to negotiate on a coalition government for Afghanistan, at local level joint administration is developing from the bottom up, gradually rising to the provincial level.

Those who are not interested in eliminating the hotbed of tension in the region or in a political solution of the Afghan problem are bound to see these trends. While saying it advocates a peaceful settlement of the DRA situation, the U.S. Administration is seeking to keep the Afghan question on a war footing. The Pakistani regime is blindly following its lead, disregarding its own country's real interests for the sake of U.S. military-economic aid.

By arming and egging on Afghan counterrevolution, the United States and its partner in the region want to wreck the national reconciliation process in the DRA. Facts show the U.S. Administration has not only not abandoned its aim of overthrowing the legitimate government in Kabul but entertains the hope it will be able to make the Afghan-Soviet border "hot."

On orders from outside, the blatantly mercenary section of counterrevolution is striving to comprehensively aggravate the situation in Afghanistan, including areas not far from the border with the USSR. But the extremist counterrevolutionary groupings are finding themselves in an increasingly vulnerable situation. The DRA Armed Froces are delivering an effective rebuff to those trying to wreck the truce. Contradictions have intensified in the counterrevolutionary camp, particularly between those who are sitting pretty in Pakistan issuing "directives" and the fighting detachments operating in what they find are increasingly difficult conditions on Afghan territory.

In this situation special provocative bandit sorties, organized on the other side of the frontier, were carried out on the Soviet border. I visited the places where these events occurred and witnessed the crushing retribution meted out to the provocateurs who had been egged on by people outside the country. The gangs involved in the attacks on the Soviet borders were routed by the Afghan Army and units of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in the DRA. A rather persuasive and sobering lesson.

This makes the dushman leaders' efforts to throw dust in the eyes of those who are providing them with weapons and, at the same time, of the Western public, appear even more pathetic. In fact, the cock-and-bull stories about "military successes" published in certain U.S. publications are simply a dushman bluff.

ROGACHEV, VISITING BANGLADESH, SPEAKS ON GULF WAR

Arrival Remarks

LD221936 Kuwait KUNA in English 1830 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Dhaka, May 22 (KUNA) -- A Soviet official said here Friday that his country will oppose any move by the United States to boost its military presence in the Gulf following recent Iraqi missile attack on a U.S. frigate.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev on arrival here for a four-day visit told reporters that his country is "against increasing U.S. military presence either in the Gulf or anywhere in the world."

Rogachev, the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Bangladesh in last ten years, was greeted at Dhaka international airport by Bangladesh Deputy Foreign Minister Wajid Ali Khan Punny.

Rogachev said Moscow wants an immediate halt to Iraq-Iran war. "We shall continue our efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf war," he said.

He said his talks with Bangladesh counterpart will focus mainly on improving economic and political relations and reviewing the international issues of common concern.

Rogachev said Dhaka and Moscow now have "good friendly relations." Both countries are keen on improving the relations further, he said.

He reiterated his country's opposition to Pakistan's efforts at acquiring AWACS surveillance planes from the United States.

Rogachev said Moscow is willing to find out a peaceful solution to the Afghan crisis created by Soviet intervention.

In Dhaka Rogachev is scheduled to meet President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and several ministers besides formal talks with Wajid Ali Khan tomorrow.

Talks With Ershad

PM261059 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Opinions"]

[Text] Dhaka, 25 May -- President H.M. Ershad of Bangladesh today received USSR Deputy Foreign Minister I.A. Rogachev, who is here on an official visit, and USSR Ambassador to Bangladesh V.G. Belyayev.

During an exchange of opinions on topical international issues and matters of bilateral relations the president was briefed on the restructuring taking place in the USSR and the Soviet Union's efforts to improve the political climate in the Asian-Pacific region in the light of the Vladivostok initiatives and the provisions of the Delhi declaration on the principles of a nonviolent world free from nuclear weapons. He was also told how the Soviet Union regards the unraveling of the Asian nuclear tangle.

For his part H.M. Ershad said that Bangladesh supports the Soviet Union's steps to reduce international tension and rid the world of nuclear weapons and the initiatives put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in Vladivostok. The president voiced the hope that bilateral relations will develop and mutual understanding will increase between Bangladesh and the USSR, which, he said, would be advanced by Soviet economic assistance, exchanges of visits, and contacts in various spheres -- cultural, scientific, sports, and others. He noted the similarity between the two countries' positions on a number of key present-day problems, above all on questions of disarmament and releasing mankind from the threat of nuclear destruction.

There were also talks with Bangladesh Deputy Foreign Minister W.A.K. Plunny, during which a wide range of issues was discussed.

I.A. Rogachev left Dhaka today having completed his official visit.

Further on Visit

JN251432 Baghdad INA in English 1405 GMT 25 May 87

[Excerpts] Dhaka, May 25, INA -- The Soviet Union is considering to intensify its effort to bring about a halt to the continuing war between Iraq and Iran, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister I.A. Rogachev has said.

He told INA that the Iraq-Iran war was causing great damage to men and material and it was time that the international community should take greater effort for a cessation of hostilities.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister today ended a four-day official visit to Bangladesh. His current three-nation trip to this region also takes him to Rangoon and Kathmandu. [passage omitted]

CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE WITH BANGLADESH

LD252009 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1118 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Dhaka, 25 May (TASS) -- A plan of scientific and cultural exchange between the USSR and Bangladesh for the years 1986-1988 was signed here today. The plan envisages the further extension of cooperation between the two countries in these areas.

FURTHER ON NGUYEN VAN LINH MOSCOW VISIT

Cambodian Issue Discussed

BK241154 Hong Kong AFP in English 0512 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Moscow, May 20 (AFP) -- Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh on Tuesday told his host Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Vietnamese military withdrawal from Cambodia was as important as the elimination of notorious Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot and an end to foreign interference in that war-torn country.

He told Mr Gorbachev: "The withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia is...(one of the) essential questions."

Mr Gorbachev told Mr Linh at the Kremlin banquet that the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge must be included in a peaceful settlement to Cambodia's political problems, although he called for the "elimination of Pol Pot's criminal clique."

In the late 1970s under Pol Pot's leadership the Khmer Rouge carried out mass murders and other atrocities in Cambodia on the pretext of a back-to-the-land political re-education campaign, which led observers to dub the blood-soaked countryside the "killing fields."

Mr Gorbachev told Mr Linh the "problem can only be solved by taking into account the overriding interesting of the Cambodian people, and its legitimate right to decide its own future based on the re-unification of all its national patriotic forces."

He said: "Slowly but surely Cambodia is recovering from the genocidal horror of Pol Pot. But continuing military actions and foreign interference are preventing normal development in that country."

Mr Linh said Vietnam was "ready to turn the page in its relations with China...to solve questions of common interest."

Vietnam has been at odds with China over Beijing's support for the Khmer Rouge, and the two fought a limited border war.

Mr Gorbachev spoke of the thaw in Sino-Soviet relations, which turned sour in the 1960s.

Earlier Tuesday Moscow and Hanoi signed a cooperation agreement concerning light industry, to last until the year 2000.

Delegations also signed accords on tea, coconut oil and electrical equipment.

Western observers believe Moscow sends some two billion dollars a year in aid to Vietnam.

Tours Economic Exhibit

LD201303 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, who is in our country on an official friendly visit, today met with activists of the Soviet-Vietnamese Friendship Society.

Tereshkova, chairman of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and others who spoke stressed the striving of the Soviet people for a further strengthening of ties between our fraternal countries on the basis of an even more effective use of all reserves of cooperation. Nguyen Van Linh expressed thanks for the interest and attention which broad sections of the Soviet public show toward the life of Vietnamese citizens who are studying and working in the land of Lenin. The present visit, he stressed, bears witness to the fact that friendship and cooperation between our countries have entered a qualitatively new and important stage of development.

Nguyen Van Linh visited the USSR Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy. He inspected the pavilion of consumer goods and public services. Comrade Biryukova and other officials were with the guest.

Radio Cites VNA Interview

LD190001 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 18 May 87

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Vyacheslav Lavrentyev]

[Text] Hello comrades! Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party [CPV] Central Committee, arrived today in Moscow on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. He was warmly welcomed at Vnukovo Airport by Comrade Ligachev and other official persons. In the St Georges Hall of the Great Kremlin Palace, the Vietnamese guest was met by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Soviet-Vietnamese talks at the summit level also started today. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh has been in our country more than once, but this is his first visit in his capacity as party leader. As is expected the visit will give a new stimulus to development of cooperation in the interests of the two countries' peoples and will serve the cause of peace and socialism. Both countries have a stake in giving our links even more efficacy; they are interrelated in the issues of guaranteeing peace, above all in Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union supports Vietnam's efforts to develop good-neighborly relations with China and the ASEAN countries.

The VNA agency recently issued an interview with Nguyen Van Linh. Concerning the situation in the country, the general secretary of the CPV Central Committee noted in the interview that the party's sixth congress fiercely criticized voluntarism and bureaucracy in economic management. But at the same time, he confirmed the importance of what has been done in past years. We had too simplistic an approach, noted Nguyen Van Linh, to the very concept of socialism, which failed to take realities into account. We did not devote enough attention to the laws of socialist construction under conditions of transfer from a poorly developed economy to socialism, while bypassing the capitalist stage of development. We now have to account strictly for objective laws of existence. The Vietnamese leader stressed that in the framework of the run-up to the congress, a campaign of criticism was unleashed throughout the country. It has become an important element in consolidating the unity of the party and in successfully holding the congress.

Joint Communique

PM221059 PRAVDA in Russian 22 May 87 Second Edition p 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Joint Soviet-Vietnamese Statement"]

[Text] The general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Van Linh stayed in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit from 17 to 22 May 1987 at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

Talks were conducted between the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and Nguyen Van Linh, taking part in which from the Soviet side were -- Nikolay Ryzhkov, Yegor Ligachev, Eduard Shevardnadze, Nikolay Talyzin, Vladimir Kamentsev, Georgiy Shakhnazarov, Dmitriy Kachin and other officials.

And from the Vietnamese side Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee, secretary of the CPV Central Committee; Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of foreign affairs of the SRV; Hong Ha, member of the CPV Central Committee, head of the Chancellory of the CPV Central Committee; Hoang Bich Son, member of the CPV Central committee, head of the External Ties Department of the CPV Central Committee; Dan Ngoc Xuan, member of the CPV Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the SRV State Planing Committee; Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the CPV Central Committee, ambassador of the SRV in the USSR; Le Xuan Tung, candidate member of the CPV Central Committee, assistant to the general secretary of the CPV Central Committee.

There was a separate meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Nguyen Van Linh.

The in-depth exchanges of views, held in the atmosphere of traditional friendship and mutual understanding, confirmed the common approaches of the CPSU and the CPV to pressing questions of socialist construction and international politics.

When informing Nguyen Van Linh about the life of the party and the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev noted the crucial nature of the present stage in the development of Soviet society, the depth and consistency of the process of renewal started on the initiative of the CPSU.

Nguyen Van Linh expressed the CPV's and the Vietnamese people's feelings of profound admiration for the services to mankind of the peoples of the Soviet Union and its tremendous contribution during the past 70 years to the struggle for peace and socialism.

The Vietnamese Communists and the entire Vietnamese people are inspired by the profound revolutionary restructuring effected in the USSR in accordance with the course of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum. It embodies the creative force of Marxism-Leninism and gives the fraternal parties valuable experience which can be used by them with due account for the concrete conditions of their countries.

Nguyen Van Linh spoke about the fulfillment of the decisions adopted by the Sixth CPV Congress, the process of renewal that has started in the country in the sphere of economic management and is directed at an all-round stabilization of the socioeconomic situation, the creation of prerequisites for a gradual expansion of the scale of socialist industrialization and at advancing the country.

Mikhail Gorbachev spoke highly of the creative, realistic course of renewal worked out by the Sixth CPV Congress, confirmed the Soviet Union's support of this course and wished the Vietnamese people a successful fulfillment of the decisions of the congress.

The talks centered on questions of bilateral relations.

The Soviet and Vietnamese peoples treasure the friendship and fruitful interaction between the CPSU and the CPV, the USSR and the SRV which have a long and glorious history. The Soviet-Vietnamese brotherhood has formed under the influence of the ideas of the Great October Socialist Revolution the light of which was brought to Vietnam by the outstanding Communist of the Leninist school Ho Chi Minh and his dedicated associates. Having passed the trial of lengthy revolutionary struggle the fraternal relations of the two peoples are becoming increasingly closer.

Nguyen Van Linh expressed the sincere gratitude of the CPV and the Vietnamese people to the CPSU and the Soviet people for the invariable support of and the big and generous assistance to the SRV in the struggle for national liberation, in the cause of building socialism and defending the homeland. He confirmed that the further strengthening of cohesion and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union is a cornerstone of the foreign policy of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The leaders of the CPSU and the CPV expressed the resolve of their parties to expand cooperation at various levels, make an in-depth study of each other's experience, perfect Soviet-Vietnamese relations on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and the SRV, the 10th anniversary of which will be celebrated in 1988, the declaration of 1985, the long-term program of developing economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

The sides specially emphasized the importance at the new stage of the Soviet-Vietnamese treaty which accords with the interests of building socialism and communism in the two countries, the cause of peace in Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific region, and the whole world.

It was stressed that the growing scale of Soviet-Vietnamese interaction, the new approaches to questions of the socioeconomic development of their respective countries worked out by the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th CPV Congress persistently demand an increase in the effectiveness of cooperation in the direction of socialist integration, international division of labor, co-production and specialization of production, and more active use of the principles of socialist economic management.

In the coming years Soviet-Vietnamese economic cooperation will be concentrated on the production and processing of agricultural produce, the output of consumer goods, the development in the SRV of the power industry and transport as well as the machine-building, electronic, chemical and mining industries on the full utilization of the existing production capacities and labor resources. Agreement was reached on the vigorous development of cooperation not only on the interstate level but also on the level of ministries and enterprises.

The sides will search for new highly effective forms and fields of cooperation, in particular will set up joint amalgamations and enterprises, will take the necessary measures to modernize enterprises built with the USSR's technical assistance and ensure their operation to full capacity.

Cooperation in the scientific-technical field will be expanded, first of all to ensure the three major economic programs determined by the Sixth CPV Congress, and also in the training of scientific managerial personnel and skilled workers.

A number of agreements on questions of Soviet-Vietnamese economic cooperation were signed during the visit.

The sides agreed that the Soviet Union will help Vietnam in working out a long-term economic development program.

The Soviet and the Vietnamese leaders declared for the adoption of a number of additional measures to develop economic ties between Vietnam and the Soviet Far East.

Agreement was reached on the setting up of an intergovernmental Soviet-Vietnamese commission on cultural cooperation, on increasing exchanges between the creative unions of the two countries. The days of Soviet culture in the SRV (1987), devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution and the days of Vietnamese culture in the USSR (1990), timed to coincide with the 45th anniversary of the proclamation of Vietnam's independence and the centenary of the birth of President Ho Chi Minh, are to become major events.

The sides will continue their interaction in the training and retraining of specialists in the field of culture, the study of the Russian language in Vietnam and the study of the Vietnamese language in the Soviet Union.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Nguyen Van Linh confirmed the principled line of the CPSU and the CPV of further strengthening the unity and cohesion of the socialist community, of developing to the maximum the initiative, vigor and creativity of each party and country.

They noted the definitive importance of working meetings held by the top leaders of the fraternal parties for working out agreed-upon directives of the mutual cooperation and the common courses of countries of the socialist community in international affairs.

The participants in the talks declared for further perfecting the mechanism of conferences of Central Committee secretaries of the fraternal parties, for making other forms of the multilateral cooperation of socialist countries more effective.

The USSR and the SRV will further closely interact in the interests of deepening socialist economic integration, fulfilling the comprehensive program of the scientific-technical progress of member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance to the year 2000 and perfecting the CMEA's activities.

The Soviet Union will take an active part in drawing up within the CMEA framework a program for helping the national economic development of Vietnam, Mongolia, and Cuba and in its efficient implementation.

The exchanges of opinions reaffirmed the identity of views held by the CPSU and the CPV on pressing international problems, the determination of the Soviet Union and Vietnam actively to interact to strengthen international peace and general security, and their solidarity with popular struggles for national independence and social progress.

Mikhail Gorbachev spoke about the activities of the CPSU and the Soviet state to promote Soviet initiatives for lessening international tension and about the Soviet Union's practical steps to affirm a new mode of political thinking in world affairs and develop relations of goodneighborliness and cooperation in Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world. A description was given of the present state of Soviet-U.S. relations and the course of talks on nuclear and space arms in Geneva and stress was laid on the fundamental significance of a Soviet proposal for eliminating the Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles from Europe and embarking on talks without delay for reducing and subsequently eliminating the theatre missiles on station on the European continent.

Nguyen Van Linh reiterated complete support by the CPV and the Vietnamese people for the new and important peace initiatives by the USSR. He said that the Soviet Union, pursuing a Leninist foreign policy, is the principal motive force in efforts for easing tension, fending off the threat of nuclear war, and strengthening peace and security throughout the world.

The leaders of the CPSU and the CPV expressed resolve to do everything to break the dangerous trend in world development, stop the arms race on earth, prevent its extension to outer space, and make sure that the enormous funds now spent on military purposes will be directed instead to solving urgent problems, most notably those in developing countries.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam are firmly committed to the idea of turning the Asia-Pacific region into a region of peace, stability, goodneighborliness and cooperation through joint efforts by all states of the region and an all-round approach to the problems of ensuring its security. The realization of this idea would be facilitated by a just settlement of existing conflicts by political means, the non-buildup and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region, a scaling down of naval activities in the Pacific, the implementation of practical measures to establish nuclear-free zones, cuts in armed forces and conventional armaments, and the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust.

Both sides stressed the importance of reducing tension in Southeast Asia as soon as possible. The Soviet Union supports the resourceful policy of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia directed at improving the political climate in Southeast Asia and developing friendly relations with the ASEAN countries and other nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

The USSR and Vietnam identify with the national reconciliation policy of the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, whose realization would meet the vital interests of the Cambodian people and their right to decide their destiny themselves and help restore peace in the country. The internal problems of Cambodia should be solved by the Cambodian people themselves.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam believe that the search for ways of settling the international aspects of the Cambodian problem by political means should be conducted with regard for realities in the region and with the involvement in this or that form of all sides concerned. The Soviet Union and Vietnam are strongly for giving Cambodia its lawful place in the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Soviet Union invariably supports efforts by the working people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the People's Republic of Kampuchea to lay the foundations of socialism, protect the independence and national sovereignty of their countries, and strengthen their fraternal alliance and all-round cooperation, which is an important factor for peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The leaders of the CPSU and the CPV stressed the constructive nature of the Afghan Government's policy aimed at achieving national reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and a political settlement of the situation regarding that country and of the Afghan people's efforts to build a sovereign, independent and nonaligned Afghanistan.

The participants in the talks pointed to a desire by their countries to normalize and improve relations with the People's Republic of China, which would be a major positive factor for strengthening stability in Asia and international life in general. They would also greet China's active involvement in the search for ways of solving the complex problems of the Asian Continent. The Soviet side supported Vietnam's initiative for holding Vietnamese-Chinese talks with a view to settling contentious issues as soon as possible.

The conviction was expressed during the talks that improvements in the situation on the Korean Peninsula would be facilitated by the realization of proposals by the Democratic Republic of Korea for resuming dialogue between the North and the South of Korea and creating a nuclear-free zone there.

Solidarity was reaffirmed with a proposal by the Mongolian People's Republic for creating a mechanism to exclude the use of force in relations between states in Asia and the Pacific.

The USSR and Vietnam attach much importance to the Delhi Declaration and the principles recorded there for building a world free from nuclear weapons and violence and think highly of India's contribution to resolving regional and general international problems in the interests of stronger peace and stability on the Asian Continent and throughout the planet.

The Soviet and Vietnamese leaders hailed the active role of the Nonaligned Movement in efforts against imperialism, neocolonialism and racism and for an end to the arms race, for eliminating nuclear weapons and for peace and international security.

During their stay in Moscow Nguyen Van Linh and the persons accompanying him laid wreaths at Vladimir Lenin's mausoleum and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Kremlin wall and visited the Museum "Vladimir Lenin's study and apartment in the Kremlin". Flowers were also placed at the memorial plaque honoring Ho Chi Minh and at the site of a future monument to him.

The Vietnamese leaders had a talk at the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Soviet, visited the exhibition of the economic achievements of the USSR, saw new residential areas in the Soviet capital, attended a rally of Soviet-Vietnamese friendship at the footwear factory Parizhskaya Kommuna and familiarized themselves with the accomplishments of its work collective. A meeting was held with activists of the Soviet-Vietnamese friendship society.

Nguyen Van Linh expressed deep gratitude for the warm and cordial reception accorded him and the persons accompanying him.

The visit by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, to the USSR was a striking demonstration of the inviolability of Soviet-Vietnamese friendship. The talks held in Moscow mark an important new step in improving and further developing the entire package of relations between the CPSU and the CPV and between the USSR and the SRV, and in deepening collaboration between the two countries in the international arena in the interests of peace and international security.

On behalf of the CPV Central Committee Nguyen Van Linh conveyed to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, an invitation to pay an official friendly visit to Vietnam. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

SRV Foreign Ministry on Visit

LD211627 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] Hanoi May 21 TASS -- The official friendly visit to the Soviet Union by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), became an event of immense importance, stated Trinh Xuan Lang, head of the Press and Information Department of the SRV's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Speaking at a briefing for Vietnamese and foreign journalists today, he emphasized that the meetings and talks which had been held during the visit had shown complete unanimity of the USSR's and Vietnam's views on all the matters discussed.

"The sides again reaffirmed the invariability of the course towards reorganization and renewal which was worked out at the 27th Congress of the CPSU and the Sixth Congress of the CPV".

"The results of the visit signify the beginning of a qualitatively new stage in the development of relations of fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the USSR and SRV in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and for the benefit of peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region and throughout the world".

CPV POLITBURO VIEWS 'IRRATIONAL' USE OF SOVIET AID

PM141257 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 May 87 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent B. Vinogradov dispatch: "For Rational Economic Management"]

[Text] Hanoi -- The prospects for further improving the efficiency of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union were examined at a CPV Central Committee Politburo session.

It was noted that over the last decade Soviet aid has been of invaluable importance for developing the SRV economy.

At the same time the reasons for shortcomings and failings in the work of the state apparatus -- which often led to the irrational utilization of the extensive Soviet aid -- were revealed, and measures were outlined to eradicate bureaucratic forms of management which reduce the effectiveness of bilateral cooperation.

It is necessary to resolutely eschew old and obsolete theoretical administrative methods of running the economy, to introduce the economic accountability system more actively, and to devote greater attention to establishing direct economic ties between provinces and individual enterprises. The planned changes, the session stressed, fully accord with the spirit and goals of the restructuring under way in the Soviet Union in accordance with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress.

TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA DISCUSSED IN MOSCOW

LD261446 Moscow TASS in English 1405 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS -- Soviet foreign trade organizations and Australian firms will take further steps to broaden bilateral trade and economic relations, it was pointed out at the third joint meeting of the Soviet-Australian Trade Promotion Committee and the Australia-USSR Businessmen's Council in Moscow today.

The Soviet delegation there made proposals that could help increase bilateral cooperation, including, among others, supplies of Soviet ships, machines and equipment to Australia, the use of new Soviet ideas in metallurgy at Australian factories, and the imports of Australian wool, grain, sugar and meat products.

The sides will later look into the possibility of Australian involvement in modernization projects in Soviet industry.

The meeting paid much attention to examining prospects for cooperation between Australian firms and the Far Eastern region of the Soviet Union.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the USSR earlier arranged a trip by a delegation of Australian businessmen, which took them to Khabarovsk, Nakhodka and Vladivostok.

Speaking at the meeting, they pointed to the processing of sea foods, mineral resources, the production of building materials, joint ventures, and the tourism industry as possible areas of cooperation.

The wide range of measures discussed at the meeting should help increase Soviet exports to Australia, which are as yet significantly smaller than Australian exports to the USSR.

FURTHER ON EVENTS DURING GORBACHEV TRIP TO ROMANIA

Romanian Reportage

For Romanian media reportage of the visit to Romania by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, including reports on his arrival and talks with Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP general secretary and president of Romania, see the Romania section of the 26 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Ceausescu Dinner Speech

PM261435 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS account of "Speech by Comrade N. Ceausescu," RCP general secretary and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, at 25 May dinner in honor of M.S. Gorbachev in Bucharest, under the general heading "In Honor of the Soviet Leader"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Gorbachev!

Esteemed comrades!

It gives me particular pleasure to warmly wish you "welcome to Romanian soil!"

Your visit is a new and important manifestation of Romanian-Soviet friendship and cooperation, an expression of the good relations between our countries, parties, and people which have long-standing, rich traditions. We value the high stage of these relations, which are firmly based on complete equality, mutual respect and esteem, the noble principles and ideals of socialism, and the desire that they constantly develop and be increasingly firmly established as an example of relations between socialist states which are actively cooperating and collaborating for the sake of the successful building of the new system in their countries and the common cause of socialism and peace. We are convinced that your visit to our country and the talks we began today will offer new prospects for these relations and will mark an important stage in the strengthening of Romanian-Soviet friendship and cooperation.

In the course of the visit you will be able to see for yourself the profound transformations which have occurred in Romanian society during the more than 40 years that have been spent building the new system, and the labor and achievements of the Romanian people who are now applying all their energy to implement the tasks set by the 13th party congress and concerning Romania's transition to a new stage of development -- the stage of an averagely developed socialist country -- by the end of this decade. We promote to the foreground the intensive development and modernization of production on the basis of the latest gains by the scientific and technical revolution, give paramount attention to the growth of labor productivity and the enhancement of output quality, and ensure firm application of the new economic machinery, self-management, and financial and economic self-administration [samokhozyaystvovaniye]. On the basis of the almost 20 years of experience of the organs of democratic leadership we have created, we continue to improve their activity with a view to ensuring the best conditions for them to perform their role and the obligations assigned to them regarding the organization and management of activity in the economic, scientific, and cultural spheres and all sectors of economic and social life. [paragraph continues]

Proceeding from the thesis according to which socialism is built by the people and for the people, we attach great importance to the development of worker-revolutionary democracy and to the expansion and improvement of the democratic framework for direct participation by working people and the whole people in the management of society as an essential condition for building a comprehensively developed socialist society and for advancement toward communism. Within the framework of this process, we constantly strengthen the party's role, aware that it is impossible to speak of socialist democracy without strengthening the leadership exercised by the party.

The Romanian people know and value the historic accomplishments achieved by the Soviet Union's peoples in building the new society during the 70 years since the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, their great achievements in the development of society's material and technical base, in industry, agriculture, science, and technology, and in all spheres of activity. At the same time, we are aware of the Soviet poeples' efforts to implement the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the latest party plenums concerning the restructuring of Soviet society and the development of democracy and all aspects of economic and social life. We follow the implementation of this program with interest and, as neighbors and friends, wish you, dear comrades, increasingly great successes along this path!

We believe that the achievements by Romania, the Soviet Union, and all the countries that are building socialism, and the efforts by our countries to make broader use of the great opportunities offered by the new system, are a most important factor for the growth of socialism's strength and prestige in the world, for its affirmation as the only system ensuring in reality the progress and free and independent development of peoples and the prosperity and civilization of all nations in the world.

During the talks we started today we exchanged opinions on the development of Romanian-Soviet relations in the economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and other spheres of mutual interest. Proceeding from the fact that a certain backlog has built up over the years in economic exchanges and in production sharing and specialization, we believe that actions in the next few years must be aimed at correcting this situation and ensuring powerful development of economic cooperation in line with the growing potential at the disposal of our countries' national economies. In this spirit, we believe that the Long-Term Program for the Development of Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation Between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the USSR Through the Year 2000 offers broad opportunities for the expansion and diversification of economic, scientific, and technical relations between our countries, and have decided to take all measures to stimulate its implementation. We also believe that opportunities exist to develop cooperation and production-sharing still further by implementing the programs, coordinated within the CEMA framework, for the purpose of solving through joint efforts a number of important tasks concerning the economic development of our countries and all CEMA states. As far as we are concerned, we will do everything for the broadest possible utilization of these opportunities, being convinced that this is completely in line with the interests of our countries' progress and, at the same time, directly serves the cause of cooperation and peace.

The world situation remains, as before, particularly serious and complex, mainly as a result of the continuation of the nuclear arms race which constantly intensifies the danger of a devastating war. This demands, more than ever before, the pooling of effort and increasingly close collaboration by all peoples for the sake of putting and end to the dangerous course of confrontation and war, implementing disarmament, and ensuring cooperation and peace.

The changes that have occurred in the world, and the existence of nuclear arms and vast arsenals of mass-destruction weapons, demand new thinking and a new approach to the problems of war and peace, based on the fact that, in today's conditions, a war with the use of nuclear weapons is unthinkable, that such a war would have neither victors nor vanquished, and that all mankind would perish in it. Nuclear weapons cannot ensure greater security; on the contrary, they increase the insecurity of peoples. The basic issue of our epoch is the termination of the arms race, the transition to disarmament, and primarily nuclear disarmament, and the defense of peace and life on earth!

Romania has resolutely advocated and does advocate the elimination of all nuclear arms by the end of this century. Proceeding from its consistent stance regarding the need for a stage-by-stage solution of disarmament questions without their interlinkage, our country supports the proposals for separate examination of the question of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe as the first step toward removal of all nuclear arms from the continent and their complete liquidation. We also acclaim the Soviet proposals on operational and tactical missiles, including the withdrawal of these missiles from the CSSR and the GDR and their destruction. We believe that the United States and, of course, the NATO countries must respond in a positive spirit to these proposals, abandon the certain restraint they still display, and find ways for the speediest reaching of proper agreements on the removal of nuclear arms from the continent and their complete liquidation.

At the same time, we believe that, in the spirit of the agreements we reached at the Budapest conference of Warsaw Pact socialist countries, it is necessary to move more resolutely toward the reduction of conventional arms. On the basis of a nationwide referendum, last year Romania unilaterally reduced its armaments, numerical strength of troops, and military spending by 5 percent, thus demonstrating that it is fully determined to act with the utmost vigor in the direction of disarmament, detente, and peace.

By means of closer collaboration, the European countries can and must play a more important role in the struggle for disarmament, security, confidence-building, and cooperation in the continent and throughout the world. In this spirit, we believe that it is necessary to do everything to ensure the conclusion of the Vienna meeting with the best possible results, which would bring about real positive progress toward disarmament, confidence-building, and cooperation in the continent.

Within the framework of actions to strengthen security and cooperation in Europe, Romania consistently advocates the transformation of the Balkans into a zone of peace and cooperation, free from nuclear and chemical weapons. We support the proposals to create such zones in Central and Northern Europe and elsewhere in the world.

We believe that, under the present circumstances, it is necessary to aim more resolutely for the exclusion of the use of force or threat to use force from international relations and the settlement of all conflicts and disputed questions between states only through peaceful talks held in a spirit of full equality and respect for each people's right to free and independent development.

Our country consistently advocates a global solution to problems of underdevelopment, including the problem of the exceptionally high foreign debt owed by developing countries, and the establishment of a new international economic order based on complete equality and fairness in interstate relations and charged with helping to hasten the progress of all countries, including backward ones.

A fair and lasting solution to the important problems of our epoch demands active and equal participation in international life by all states, regardless of size or social system.

We believe it is necessary to enhance the role of the United Nations and other international organizations in the solution of all these serious and complex problems, the democratization of interstate relations, the broad development of cooperation, and the strengthening of peace.

On this occasion, I would like to note Romania's close collaboration with the Soviet Union in the United Nations and other international organizations and to express the believe that this collaboration will strengthen still further and that, together with the other socialist states and the world's progressive and peace-loving forces, our countries will make an increasingly substantial contribution to the powerful affirmation of the policy of disarmament, cooperation, independence, and peace.

In this belief, I wish the friendship and cooperation between the RCP and the CPSU, between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the USSR, and between the Romanian and Soviet peoples to constantly develop and strengthen!

Romanian Reaction

LD260921 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Today is the 2d day of the official friendly visit by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to Romania. Talks between Comrades Gorbachev and Ceausescu will continue. There will be meetings between the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the workers of the Bucharest heavy engineering works and a Soviet-Romanian friendship meeting.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's visit to Romania is an event of exceptional importance, stresses SCINTEIA. It expresses the traditional firm ties between the RCP and the CPSU, between the SR of Romania and the USSR. The visit reflects a joint desire to expand and intensify these relations, which are based on the principles of friendship, respect, and trust. Working people and all Romanian people, writes the organ of the RCP Central Committee, welcome with satisfaction the meeting between Comrade Ceausescu and Gorbachev as an important manifestation of Romanian-Soviet friendship and of cooperation between our parties, countries, and peoples.

Raisa Gorbacheva Meeting

LD261044 Moscow TASS in English 1018 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Bucharest May 26 TASS -- The activity of the women's organisations of the USSR and Romania, their growing role in the political, social and economic life of society and other vital issues of the women's movement were discussed during a talk in the National Women's Council of Romania where Raisa Gorbacheva met representatives of this mass public organisation.

She told Romanian women about Soviet women's vigorous involvement in the complex and multi-faceted process of restructuring economic and societal life in the Soviet Union, about the further development of the institutes of socialist democracy in the USSR and in view of this about efforts to reorganize the activity of the Soviet Women's Committee, the growing influence of the women's councils, being set up in the country, in tackling the issues of improving women's working and living conditions.

It was emphasized that women had an ever more active role to play in all spheres of material production and in spiritual life currently. Therefore, a major task of women's organisation was to create auspicious to the maximum conditions for tapping more fully their creative potentialities with due account for important maternal responsibilities in upbringing the rising generation [sentence as received]

Afa Muresan, chairman of the National Women's Council of Romania, noted women's higher role in the administration of the country. An increasingly larger number of women transfer to jobs in the key branches of the national economy such as electronics and electro-engineering, and are engaged in research. To this end, re-training or refresher courses have been set up across Romania.

The talk covered the pressing issues of increasing the women's organisations influence in solving the all-important issues of our times -- guaranteeing peace on earth, preventing a nuclear holocuast, achieving general and complete disarmament and, primarily, nuclear disarmament.

Raisa Gorbacheva also visited a major Bucharest garments and knitwear enterprise, the bulk of whose goods is exported to Soviet customers, the Young Pioneers' Palace and a museum of art collections.

Other Gorbacheva Activities

LD262122 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 May 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] This is the National Council of Romanian Women. [video shows entrance to building] A meeting took place here between Raisa Maksimovna Gorbacheva and the leadership of this mass public organization representing 3,000 district women's committees and over 20,000 women's factory and works committees.

Raisa Maksimovna told of the women's movement in our country, of the process of restructuring which has affected the work of the Committee of Soviet Women, and of the role of the women's councils now being set up. [video shows Raisa entering building, shaking hands with women, receiving a bouquet, listening to one of welcoming party]

During the meeting it was noted that the women's organizations of the two countries are dealing with quite a number of common tasks. They are as one in the struggle for peace, democratic freedoms, and equality for women.

Raisa Maksimovna Gorbacheva visited the Bucharest sewing and knitwear factory. A moving meeting with small children from the kindergarten belonging to the factory took place. The children prepared a concert for the visitor.

And here is the factory itself. Over 16,000 people, most of them women, work here. The workers of this enterprise are renowned for their skill. The ready-made garments produced here for men and women stand out for their beauty, elegance, and taste. Raisa Maksimovna Gorbacheva was told that the lines of clothing are constantly updated, and for this reason enjoy high demand not only in Romania but also abroad. The logo of this factory is well known in the Soviet Union, too. [video shows Raisa standing with group of women outside the factory, speaking through interpreter to a group of workers]

[Gorbacheva] I would like to say thank you for your attitude to my homeland and my people. Nothing is more valuable than the friendship between our people. And permit me to appraise your meeting as an expression of your warm feeling toward my homeland. Thank you.

[Announcer] Raisa Maksimovna Gorbacheva also visited the Bucharest gallery of art collections today. Here, the paintings and pottery and works by folk masters donated to the state by collectors are represented. [video shows paintings and artefacts on display in museum; Raisa inspecting same]

Report on Leaders' Talks

LD261415 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1330 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Bucharest, 26 May (TASS) -- On 25-26 May meetings were held here between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the RCP and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania. In the course of the meetings there was a detailed exchange of views on topical problems of socialist construction, bilateral relations, and world politics.

Mikhail Gorbachev noted that on the broad historical plane socialism had proved its creative possibilities, although many difficulties had lain on its path. From the political point of view the end result is important. We have a right to affirm the huge historical achievements of socialism. At the same time, in present conditions our country has been confronted with the task of sharply stepping up the pace and imparting dynamism to its social and economic development. The Soviet leader spoke in detail about how the CPSU's line on restructuring Soviet society is being implemented, first and foremost via the profound democratization of all its life.

Nicolae Ceausescu told of the main directions of the party's work in resolving tasks put forward by the 13th RCP Congress. Paramount attention is being alloted to the modernization of production, the use of new methods of management, and the strengthening of the leading role of the Romanian Communist Party. He noted the need to overcome the certain lagging behind in the economic exchange, and for cooperation and specialization of production in the near future.

The leaders of the two parties discussed questions [printsipialnyye] of principle concerned with the deepening of Soviet-Romanian relations. It was ascertained that they have reached a significant level. But new tasks put forward the requirement for further perfection and development of the entire system of Soviet-Romanian ties. For this it is important to bring into action the opportunities that exist in the political, economic, scientific and technological, cultural, and other spheres. The need was stressed for the implementation of a long-term program of economic and scientific and technological cooperation between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Romania for raising the qualitative level of mutual interaction by means of introducing progressive forms that meet modern conditions. Cooperation in the sphere of the superstructure [nadstroyki] contacts, and in ties between labor collectives and the working people of both countries, is of important significance. Mutual resolve was expressed to do everything so that mutual interaction between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Romania should develop for the benefit of the Soviet and the Romanian peoples, and for the general cause of socialism and peace.

Speaking about the international situation, Mikhail Gorbachev noted that there are in the world not only the interests of separate states or groups of states -- socialist, capitalist, developing states -- but also general, mutually linked interests. It is important to know how to find ways to make these accord with one another, to know how to respect one anothers' interests. Herein lies the meaning of the new thinking, which should come to replace the old, obsolete approaches to international affairs.

The global problems of mankind can be resolved only through the efforts of all the states of the world. These are the questions of strengthening peace, halting the arms race, protecting the environment, the problem of hunger, and of scientific and technical progress.

There is no more acute problem among the problems of disarmament, Mikhail Gorbachev said, than that of the militarization of space. Putting weapons into space will inevitably lead to the increase of mutual distrust and suspicion. This will make the world less stable, less predictable, will whip up the arms race, and will lead to the destiny of mankind being dependent upon chance technical malfunctions. All this places a tremendous responsibility on the governments of all the states of the world.

Nicolae Ceausescu stated that on the majority of the issues that were discussed the Soviet Union and Romania have identical or close stances. He discussed the contradictions between the capitalist powers and the developing countries and stressed the pernicious role of nonequivalent [neekvivalentnyy] exchange and of the growing burden of financial debt. Today, without stopping the arms race, not a single state is in a condition to resolve its social or other problems of development.

During an examination of international matters, the importance was noted of the foreign political activity -- which is full of initiative -- of the socialist countries in the struggle for eliminating the threat of a nuclear war, disarmament, and reducing military confrontation in Europe. The general view was expressed of the necessity to activate efforts in resolving the more acute problems, such as achieving an agreement on eliminating medium-range missiles, reducing strategic arms by 50 percent, stopping nuclear tests, and not permitting the arms race to be transferred into space.

The conversations took place in a comradely atmospere in a spirit of frankness [otkrovennost] and mutual understanding.

Visit to Machine Works

LD261808 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Mikhail Serbeyevich Gorbachev visited the 23 August heavy machine building works in Bucharest today. Our special correspondent Vyacheslav Lavrentyev reports:

[Lavrentyev] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev inspected the works. Interesting conversations and meetings took place with the enterprise's management and with the workers. Comrade Gorbachev noted that problems of economic cooperation occupied a major position in his talks with Comrade Ceausescu. We must go over to a new stage of cooperation, Comrade Gorbachev stressed, from simply increasing trade turnover to establishing direct links between production collectives, and going as far as creating joint enterprises.

After completing an inspection of the enterprise with Comrade Gorbahev, I met (Petre Redakanu), secretary of the party organization at the works.

[Begin (Redakanu) recording in Romanian fading to Russian translation] The visit to the works by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is a great honor for us. The warm welcome which the entire collective of the works gave to their Soviet guest is evidence of the great friendship which exists between our countries and peoples. We support fruitful production links with Soviet enterprises, and we are sure that Comrade Gorbachev's visit will help to extend still further the bounds of our cooperation. [end recording]

Concert 26 May

LD262107 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 May 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A solemn concert on the occasion of the visit to the Romanian Socialist Republic by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev took place in Bucharest's national theater this evening.

Departure 27 May

LD271331 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Having completed his official friendly visit, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, left Romania today. He was there at the invitation of Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general, president of Romania.

Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, left with Comrade Gorbachev.

State flags of the USSR and Romania were hoisted at the Bucharest Otopeni Airport. Greetings streamers were hung from the airport building. A guard of honor of the Romanian Armed Froces formed on the tarmac. The commander of the guard of honor reported to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The orchestra performed the state anthems of both countries. An echo of the artillery salute, 21 salvoes, resounds over the airport.

Nicolae Ceausescu, accompanied by his wife, saw the Soviet leader and his wife off at the foot of the steps leading to the airplane. They wished them a good journey. Dascalescu, member of the Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee, prime minister of the Romanian Government, and other Romanian party and state figures, the Soviet ambassador to Romania, and the Romanian ambassador to the USSR also took part in the seeing-off ceremony.

Representatives of the Romanian capital's working people bade a warm farewell to the Soviet leader; Pioneers gave him flowers.

State flags of both countries, streamers with the words of the toasts in honor of the friendship between the two parties and peoples were put up on the city's streets and squares along the route which the motorcade, accompanied by motorcycle outriders' guard of honor, followed to the airport.

Tens of thousands of Bucharest inhabitants went out onto the city's streets to see off the Soviet guest.

Before his departure by air, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev made a trip around Bucharest. He saw historical and architectural monuments and other sights of the Romanian capital. He visited the regions where housing construction is under way on a mass scale and paid a visit to the Polytechnical Institute. Nicolae Ceausescu accompanied the Soviet leader.

IZVESTIYA on Visit Atmosphere

PM271051 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 May 87 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Dispatch by special correspondents N. Yermolovich and V. Volodin: "Efficiency and Sincerity"]

[Excerpts] Bucharest -- The first hours of M.S. Gorbachev's stay on Romanian soil will remain for a long time in the memory of eye witnesses -- and television has turned many millions of people into eye witnesses. The hospitable inhabitants of Bucharest turned the avenues and squares into improved stages. A festival of national art -- short, but none the less brilliant and charming for that -- was rapidly played out. The multicolored costumes of the amateur orchestras and ensembles, the captivating melodies, the fiery dances -- all these colors, sounds, and movements merged into a single bright and joyful picture.

It contained so much fervor and youthfulness, freshness and immediacy, that you cannot bring yourself to call it the ceremonial side of the visit. Friendliness and sincerity are good in any manifestations. All the more so in that they were immediately joined by one more feature determining the nature of the visit: efficiency.

It must be supposed that efficiency also set the tone in the talks which are continuing at the Romanian State Council palace between M.S. Gorbachev and N. Ceausescu and during the Soviet leader's visit to Bucharest's 23 August machine building plant.... [passage omitted]

There have been many notable events in the enterprise's life. But this will remain for a long time in the memory of its labor collective and will be inscribed forever in the plant's history. On the second day of his visit the eminent Soviet guest visited a Bucharest enterprise.

At the central entrance the dear guests were welcomed with bouquets of flowers. The talks with representatives of the plant's council of working people, the Soviet leader's ability not simply to listen but also to investigate the essence of a problem in depth made it possible to become sufficiently fully acquainted with the life of the labor collective and to exchange opinions on its deeds and concerns. The manner of conducting dialogue openly, without concealing problems, and at the same time confidentially, made a big impression on all those who had occasion to talk with the Soviet leader.

The capital's enterprise long ago established firm business ties with the Soviet Union. Our Romanian friends send complete sets of metallurgical equipment and converters and motors for drilling devices to various Soviet enterprises. [passage omitted]

All those with whom we met and talked on that memorable day for the plant spoke of the strong, truly labor-based ties linking Soviet and Romanian working people and of the importance of the eminent Soviet guest's visit for the further quest for new forms of collaboration which will raise Soviet-Romanian cooperation to a higher qualitative level.

The fundamental tasks facing our countries' economies are similar: mobilizing all reserves for the implementation of the large-scale plans outlined by the latest congresses of our ruling Marxist-Leninist parties. Both the Soviet Union and Romania are making consistent efforts to intensify production and to improve its qualitative indicators and standard of management. Great opportunities are contained in the active fulfillment of the provisions of the long-term program for the development of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and Romania and in the scientific and technical progress of the CEMA countries to the year 2000.

Each fraternal party has the inalienable right to resolve questions of the country's development in a sovereign way. It is responsible only to its own people. At the same time the successes of the socialist community are impossible without the concern of each member for common interests, without a respectful attitude toward the affairs of its friends and allies. These principles are fully shared by the Soviet Union and Romania.

COOPERATION CONFERENCE ENDS IN BUCHAREST

LD212351 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1930 GMT 21 May 87

[From "The World Today" program presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] One of the numerous examples of interaction between socialist states is Soviet-Romanian cooperation. A meeting has just finished in Bucharest between the leaders of the intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Antonov, chairman of the Soviet part of the commission, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, was received by Comrade Ceausescu. During the talks concrete measures were planned in Bucharest concerning the implementation of the Long-Term Program of Cooperation Between Our States Through to the Year 2000, the expansion of cooperation, specialization of production, and an increase in mutual trade turnover. The Soviet Union is Romania's main trading partner. Its share makes up about one-fifth of the whole volume of Romania's foreign trade.

SOLOMENTSEV GREETS ARRIVING PZPR DELEGATION

PM270747 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Arrival in Moscow"]

[Text] A delegation of PZPR party workers headed by W. Mokrzyszczak, member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the PZPR Central Control and Auditing Commission, arrived in Moscow 25 May.

The delegation was met at the airport by M.S. Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Commission, and other officials.

FURTHER ON MARSHAL SOKOLOV'S TRIP TO HUNGARY

Moscow Departure, Budapest Arrival

PM221113 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 May 87 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Official Friendly Visit"]

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, left Moscow on an official friendly visit to Hungary 19 May. Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov was accompanied by Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, and Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov and Army General V.M. Shabanov, USSR deputy defense ministers.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov was seen off at the capital's Sheremetyevo Airport by N.N. Slyunkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; A.N. Volkov, USSR minister of civil aviation; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces; Army General P.G. Lushev, USSR first deputy defense minister; and other Soviet Armed Forces generals and officers.

J. Barabas, special anvoy and minister plenipotentiary at the Hungarian Embassy in the USSR, and Major General L. Varga, military and air attache at the Hungarian Embassy in the USSR, were among the send-off party.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov arrived in Budapest the same day.

He was met at the airport by I. Horvath, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee; [Hungarian Defense Minister] Colonel General F. Karpati; Lieutenant General L. Morocz, state secretary at the Hungarian Defense Ministry; Lieutenant General J. Pacsek, chief of the Hungarian People's Army General Staff and Hungarian deputy defense minister; Lieutenant General J. Horvath, chief of the Hungarian People's Army Main Political Directorate and Hungarian deputy defense minister; and other officials.

B.I. Stukalin, Soviet ambassador to Hungary, was among the welcoming party.

The Soviet and Hungarian national anthems were played during the meeting.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S. L. Sokolov laid a wreath at the monument to the Hungarian heroes who fell in the struggle for the freedom and independence of their motherland. A wreath was laid at the monument to the Soviet liberating servicemen on Liberty Square in Budapest.

A meeting was held between Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov and Col Gen F. Karpati at the Hungarian Defense Ministry. Questions of mutual interest were discussed during the talk, which was held in a friendly atmosphere.

That evening the Hungarian defense minister held a reception at which Col Gen F. Karpati and Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov exchanged greetings speeches.

Visits to Air Unit, Gyor

PM221117 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 May 87 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Visit Continuing"]

[Text] Budapest, 20 May -- Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, USSR minister of defense, who is in Hungary on an official friendly visit, today visited an air unit of the Hungarian People's Army. A ceremonial meeting was held.

Military pilots displayed a high standard of combat and specialized training. The USSR defense minister saw an exhibition in the unit's museum. B. Farkas, Hungary's first pilot-cosmonaut, who served in this unit prior to the joint Soviet-Hungarian spaceflight, familiarized the Soviet guest with the museum section on the two countries' cooperation in the sphere of space research.

Flowers were laid at the monument to USSR Pilot-Cosmonaut V.M. Komarov, for whom the unit's Communist Youth League organization is named.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov made an inscription in the unit's honored visitors' book: "The high skill of the flight personnel and the ground services, which we saw during our visit to your unit, convincingly attests that the cause of defending the Hungarian working people's socialist gains and their peaceful creative labor is in safe hands. The Soviet Armed Forces delegation wishes the unit's personnel new successes in strengthening the defense capability of the fraternal Hungarian People's Republic."

Then Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov visited Gyor, the city of Hungarian machine builders. Warm meetings were held with party leaders at the MSZMP county committee and with their labor collective of one of the county's progressive enterprises -- the Raba Car and Machine Building Plant.

L. Lakatos, first secretary of the Gyor-Sopron county's MSZMP Committee, spoke about the county's economic and political development, its working people's implementation of the 13th party congress decisions, and the contacts developing between its enterprises and Soviet partners.

In the Raba Plant's shops Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov talked with workers and scientific and technical personnel. He wished the enterprise collective the efficient utilization of scientific and technical achievements in production and further broadening of Soviet-Hungarian cooperation.

The USSR defense minister is accompanied on his tour of the country by Colonel General F. Karpati, Hungarian defense minister; Lieutenant General I. Horvath, chief of the Hungarian People's Army Main Political Directorate and Hungarian deputy defense minister; and other officials.

Talks With Kadar, Lazar

LD221125 Moscow TASS in English 1103 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Budapest May 22 TASS -- General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Janos Kadar today received Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Sokolov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of defence of the USSR. Gyorgy Lazar, member of the Political Bureau of the HSWP Central Committee and chairman of Hungary's Council of Ministers, took part in the conversation.

Final Talks, Return to Moscow

PM250939 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 May 87 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "USSR Defense Minister's Visit to Hungary Completed"]

[Text] Budapest, 22 May — Today J. Kadar, general secretary of the MSZMP, received Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister. G. Lazar, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, took part in the talk.

The meeting, which took place in a cordial, comradely atmosphere, was attended by I. Horvath, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee; Colonel General F. Karpati, Hungarian defense minister; Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; and B.I. Stukalin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR ambassador to Hungary.

On the same day the concluding talk took place between the USSR and Hungarian defense ministers.

In the afternoon Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov left for home.

At the airport he was seen off by I. Horvath, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee; Lieutenant General L. Morocz, state secretary of the Hungarian Defense Ministry; Lieutenant General J. Pacsek, chief of General Staff of the Hungarian People's Army and Hungarian deputy defense minister; Lieutenant General J. Horvath, chief of the Hungarian People's Army Main Political Directorate and Hungarian deputy defense minister; and other officials.

B.I. Stukalin, USSR ambassador to Hungary, was among the send-off party.

A guard of honor was drawn up on the runway and the state anthems of the USSR and Hungary were played.

On 22 May Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, returned to Moscow. He had made his official friendly visit to Hungary at the invitation of Hungarian Defense Minister Col Gen F. Karpati. Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, and USSR Deputy Defense Ministers Aviation Marshal A.N. Yefimov and Army General V.M. Shabanov arrived with Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov.

At the capital's Sheremetyevo Airport, Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov was met by N.N. Slyunkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and USSR first deputy defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact states' Joint Armed Forces; and Army General P.G. Lushev, USSR first deputy defense minister.

J. Barabas, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary at the Hungarian Embassy in the USSR; and Major General L. Varga, military and air attache at the Hungarian Embassy in the USSR, were among the welcoming party.

HONECKER CITED ON ARMS ISSUES, REUNIFICATION

PM261229 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "E. Honecker Speech"]

[Text] Berlin, 25 May -- The GDR in conjunction with the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries, and all peace-loving forces is seeking disarmament in the nuclear and conventional spheres on the basis of equality and identical security.

This was stated by Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, at the 13th congress of the republic's peasant cooperative members in Schwerin.

The far-reaching proposals by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev and the initiatives by the Warsaw Pact states have made the achievement of concrete agreements a realistic prospect. In this connection the GDR leader pointed to the need to eliminate all nuclear missiles in Europe, whether medium-range or operational and tactical missiles, even including battlefield nuclear weapons. The "double zero option," as it is known in the West, would do no one any harm, but would be a considerable boon to all who are interested in stable peace and security.

On the basis of a policy of dialogue and cooperation the GDR will continue to make its own contribution to the struggle for disarmament and to back any initiative aimed at eliminating the nuclear threat. We see this, E. Honecker stressed, as a way of carrying out our duty to ensure that war will never again emanate from German soil. This also applies to the further development of relations between the two German states. Those "prophets" who, in connection with such important issues as eliminating medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe and ridding the continent of all types of nuclear armaments, have started talking again about the "reunification of Germany" should be warned. The only thing one can say about these people is that they do not know what they are doing. In fact, as is known, there is nothing to "reunite," since the GDR and the FRG have never been together, they are worlds -- socialist and capitalist -- apart. The sooner everyone in the West, above all in the FRG, realizes this, the better it will be for the future of mankind for the safeguarding of world peace, E. Honecker stressed.

Dwelling on matters related to the development of the republic's agriculture, the GDR leader noted that agricultural production cooperatives and people's property are the foundation of the sector's development. Their further strengthening will create the best possible prerequisites for the all-embracing intensification of agricultural production. The country's nearly 40 years of experience is striking evidence that only socialism can provide agricultural workers with a reliable future. This was and still is entirely due to the close and indestructible alliance between the working class and the cooperativized peasantry.

BRIEFS

HEALTH PROTOCOL WITH POLAND -- Moscow, 25 May (TASS) -- Further development of contacts between the USSR and the PPR in medicine is provided for under a protocol signed today in Moscow. The third session of the standing Soviet-Polish working group on cooperation in this field ended here. The results of joint work on topical problems of health care were summed up, particularly that of the mother and child and opthalmology. It was acknowledged to be expedient to embark upon research into surgery, neurology, and psychiatry. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1615 GMT 25 May 87 LD]

MURAKHOVSKIY-LED DELEGATION VISITS FRG 3-8 MAY

LD082234 Moscow TASS in English 2104 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Bonn May 8 TASS -- The Soviet delegation led by Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first vice-chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Agri-Industrial Committee, was on a visit in the FRG on May 3-8.

In Bonn the Soviet delegation met with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl and FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in Munich -- with CSU Chairman, Bavaria's Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss.

In discussing topical international issues, the delegation drew attention to the USSR's proposals aimed at a radical reduction of nuclear weapons. The West German side was briefed on the reorganisation currently under way in the Soviet Union and in the political, economic and social fields.

Much attention was devoted at the talks to the discussion of issues pertaining to Soviet-West German cooperation, opportunities for its broadening and deepening, including in agri-industrial production.

In the course of the visit an agreement was signed between the USSR State Agri-Industrial committee and the FRG Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Foresty on cooperation in the field of agrarian research. It will make it possible to deepen cooperation in plant growing, stock rearing, farm machine building, economy and administration.

The delegation made a tour of the country and familiarized themselves with the operations of a number of agricultural enterprises and research institutions. Vsevolod Murakhovskiy met and talked with representatives of West German business circles.

Delegation Departs FRG

LD082238 Moscow TASS in English 2205 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Munich May 8 TASS -- The Soviet delegation led by Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first vice-chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Agri-Industrial Committee, left Munich for Moscow today.

The send-off party at the airport included FRG Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestries Ignaz Kiechle and USSR Ambassador to the FRG Yuliy Kvitsinskiy.

MEDVEDEV ATTENDS 8TH SEW CONGRESS IN FRG

Seen Off by Dobrynin

LD142346 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 14 May 87

[From the "Vreyma" newscast]

[Text] A CPSU delegation led by Comrade Medvedev left Moscow today in order to take part in the work of the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin [SEW].

At the airport, they were seen off by Comrade Dobrynin and other officials.

TASS Reports Schmitt Speech

LD152140 Moscow TASS in English 2017 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] West Berlin May 15 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Yuriy Borisov and Vladimir Shtykov:

"Peace, work, democracy and social progress" is the slogan under which the 8th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin opened today. Attending the congress are nearly 600 delegates -- workers, trade unionists, and activists of women's and youth organisations, intellectuals. Present at the congress are delegations from more than 30 fraternal parties, including the CPSU delegation led by Vadim Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The report at the congress was delivered by Horst Schmitt, chairman of the party. He pointed out that there had been great change in the world over the period under review. The bold and realistic programme put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, opens to mankind the possibility to enter the year of 2000 without nuclear weapons. The recent Soviet proposal that an agreement be immediately concluded on the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe can open the way to the resolution of all the key issues related to the limitation of arms and to disarmament.

We communists, the reporter said, are convinced that there is now a real perspective to avert a new world war. Therefore we give every support to the peace policy pursued by the Soviet Union, the GDR and the other socialist states. Our party considers it to be its duty to do everything in its power so that war should never again start from the German soil. This policy also meets the best interests of our city's population.

Horst Schmitt touched in detail upon the tasks of West Berlin communists in the fight for the interests of the working class, against the arbitrary rule of the employers and the offensive against the social gains of the working people. The reactionary domestic policy of the West Berlin Senate (government) meets with growing resistance from the inhabitants of the city, he said. The senate is out to shift all the burdens of the economic crisis onto the working people's shoulders.

Under these conditions the party of West Berlin Communists is carrying out work on a large scale to mobilize the working people to struggle in defence of their interests.

Proceeding from political, social and economic considerations, West Berlin must expand its relations with the Soviet Union, the GDR and the other socialist countries in the spirit of peaceful coexistence, Horst Schmitt stressed.

PRAVDA Notes Medvedev Speech

PM191110 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[Report by own correspondents V. Kabanov, M. Podklyuchnikov: "A Crucial Stage"]

[Text] West Berlin, 16 May -- The Eighth Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin [SEW] Congress is in its 2d day. Today it was addressed by V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the head of the CPSU delegation. On the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee, he conveyed to the congress and to all West Berlin communists warm, fraternal greetings on behalf of Soviet Communists and the working people of the Soviet Union.

We know, the head of the CPSU delegation emphasized, what a complex situation the SEW has to work in. Therefore our delegation listened with all the more satisfaction to the report of the party's board, delivered by Comrade Horst Schmidt. A serious, self-critical analysis of its activity, the party's determination to step up its efforts in the struggle for the vital interests of the city's working population and for peace and international cooperation -- all this indicates that the West Berlin working class party is active and struggling.

The voice of the communists in defense of peace and security and the new political thinking, the speaker went on, perhaps have a special meaning for West Berlin.

Political parties and movements of different trends now agree that Europe and the world as a whole are going through a crucial stage. For the first time a real opportunity exists to take the cause of disarmament out of the impasse and substantially lessen the nuclear threat. The Soviet Union and the other European socialist states, seeking to resolve this historical task, have put forward a package of appropriate initiatives.

We are convinced, the speaker went on, that the first practical step along the path of disarmament -- the elimination of the Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe -- would facilitate subsequent steps, the strengthening of trust and the expansion of cooperation, and the implementation of all-European plans in the sphere of the economy, science, and technology, the exchange of spiritual values, and the protection of nature, in a word, the successful building of what M.S. Gorbachev metaphorically described as the "all-European house."

The Soviet Union approaches the problem of West Berlin with the utmost responsibility. Here we take into account the whole range of interests -- the interests of European peace, of our country and its allies, and, of course, of the city itself. The future of West Berlin and the city's opportunity to live and develop in a tranquil atmosphere depend entirely on a peaceful atmosphere in Europe and the deepening of mutual understanding and cooperation between the West and East of our continent. In turn, the West Berlin situation has an impact on the all-European atmosphere.

Any attempts to violate the Four-Power Agreement of 1971 or to interpret its provisions one-sidely are impermissible. Claims of West Berlin's belonging to the FRG are absolutely unfounded.

Of course, nobody is calling into question the development of economic and cultural ties between the city and West Germany. [paragraph continues]

But in political terms it is an immutable fact that there now exist on the territory of the former German state two sovereign states -- the GDR and the FRG -- as well as a special political entity -- West Berlin.

In our opinion it is the consistent observance of the Four-Power Agreement that creates all the necessary prerequisites for the active involvement of West Berlin in the all-European process and its transformation into a center of peaceful cooperation on the continent and for the deepening of the process of relaxation of international tension.

That, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee stated, is why it can only cause profound regret that some people exploited the celebrations which have begun to mark Berlin's 750th anniversary to propagandize obsolete slogans and revanchist ideas. There is no other way to assess the attempts to proclaim West Berlin a symbol of the "open German question" or the frank hints that it is seen as a kind of Western Trojan horse in the socialist East of Europe.

This is not the first time we have heard such assertions. You might think we need pay no attention to them, regarding them as nostaligia for the irrevocable past and evidence of the loss of a sense of reality. But the whole point is that such relapses into the old way of thinking introduce negative elements into the political atmosphere and cannot but hamper the development of the positive trends that recently have emerged. Who stands to gain by this? Clearly not the city's population.

The Soviet Union advocates developing ties with West Berlin in the most diverse spheres of public life and activity. We note with satisfaction that prominent Soviet writers and artists find a warm reception in your city and that festivals of our movies are held with success. Economic cooperation also is maintained, chiefly trade exchange, although by no means on a scale approaching the sides' potential and mutual advantage.

We know and appreciate the fact that there are many people and organizations in West Berlin who consider it their duty to promote our cooperation. Above all we are grateful to the city's communists, who make great efforts to bring to people's awareness the truth about the Soviet Union.

Speaking of the nature and objectives of the restructuring process in the USSR, V.A. Medvedev noted that Soviet Communists are rightly proud of their achievements in the 70 years since the October Reovlution and of their destiny as pioneers on the untrodden path to socialism, and that our people have made a contribution of unfading historical significance to the development of the world liberation process. But we do not draw our activeness solely from past achievements. Forward movement is impossible without the desire for self-improvement, without self-criticism, which helps us to discard everything that hampers the creative potential of socialism and the putting into practice of its humane ideals.

In conclusion, the head of the CPSU delegation stated that our party regards the transformational work aimed at endowing Soviet society with a new quality as a further contribution to the cause of strengthening the positions of socialism and world social progress. Here we collaborate closely with the fraternal parties of the other socialist states.

A quest for new, more effective forms and methods of work is now in progress in many communist and workers' parties. The creative development of Marxist-Leninist theory -- in accordance with the new conditions which have arisen as the 20th century draws to a close and in accordance with the multifaceted and extremely complex tasks which have not come to the fore -- will make it possible to more fully uncover the potential of the workers' movement and realize its role as the vanguard force for social progress.

The secretary of the CPSU Central Committee wished the West Berlin Comrades success in the work of the congress and the implementation of its decisions. We are confident, he said, that the SEW will continue energetically to uphold the interests of the city's working people and struggle for the goals of peace and progress.

V.A. Medvedev conveyed the text of the CPSU Central Committee message of greetings to the Eighth SEW Congress, together with a gift of a bronze statue of Ernst Thaelmann, the leader of the German proletariat and ardent revolutionary.

The discussison of the party board's report continues at the congress.

CPSU Greets Congress

PM151415 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 87 Second Edition p 1

[Message from CPSU Central Committee to Eighth Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin Congress]

[Text] To the Eighth Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin Congress

Dear Comrades,

On the opening day of the Eighth Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin (SEW) Congress, we send the congress deputies and all SEW members our cordial greetings and very best wishes.

The Communists of West Berlin can be confident of finding invariable support from the CPSU and Soviet Communists, who highly appraise the contribution made by the SEW to ensuring that your city plays a constructive role in the development of mutually advantageous cooperation, the strengthening of mutual understanding among the peoples of Europe, and the building of our common "European home."

Continuing the glorious traditions of the German revolutionary workers movement in West Berlin, the SEW acts in the new conditions of the mid-eighties as a galvanizing force in all the movements which have recently developed in this city -- for peace, against the arms race, for more jobs and against unemployment, for the satisfaction of West Berliners' social needs, and for the rights of women, young people, and foreign workers.

We are sure that your congress and its decisions will give new impetus to this work and contribute to still further enhancing the authority of the SEW among the city's left-wing democratic forces as a reliable political ally and an unselfish champion of the West Berlin working people's vital interests.

For its part, loyal to the traditions of international solidarity among working people, the CPSU is ready to continue to collaborate broadly with the SEW in the interests of further promoting our socialist ideals and ensuring peace and social progress.

With communist greetings,
CPSU Central Committee

PRAVDA REVIEWS RECENT POLITBURO MEETING

PM260819 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 May 87 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee Politburo"]

[Text] In the CPSU Central Committee Politburo

At its latest meeting, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo examined the question of measures to improve the work of the USSR Council of Ministers under conditions of the struggle to speed up the country's socioeconomic development. It was noted that in accordance with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee April 1985 Plenum and the 27th party congress, the government had taken large-scale economic and organizational measures directed at a stable and dynamic development of the national economy and the overcoming of stagnation. At the same time the formation of an effective system to run the national economy is not finished. For these ends essential measures have been determined to improve the administration of complexes of interdependent sectors and the methods of their activities and also to improve the work of the central economic ministries and departments and the councils of ministers of the union republics. Proposals for improving the forms and methods of work of the USSR Council of Ministers apparatus have been approved.

After discussing lines of restructuring in the work of ministries and departments in material production, the Politburo approved measures to remove the negative features and shortcomings accumulated in the organization and methods of work of ministries and departments and to change the role and function of ministries and departments under the new conditions of economic management as laid down in the USSR Draft Law on State Enterprises (Associations). Tasks were outlined for reorganizing the organizational structures for running production and the style and methods of work of the apparatus of ministries and departments.

The question was examined of improving the activities of republican administrative bodies. It was emphasized that the measures being proposed are directed at extending the rights of the councils of ministers of union and autonomous republics and the krayispolkom and oblispolkom soviets of people's deputies and enhancing their responsibility for the comprehensive development of the economy in their territories, the creation of conditions to speed up the economic and social development of their regions within the country's unified national economic complex, and the satisfaction of the population's varied requirements. It has been deemed essential, taking into account the expanded financial independence of enterprises, to clarify the functions of republican and local administrative bodies.

The Politburo also considered the creation, in the city of Ulyanovsk, of a center for the application of microelectronics and automation in machine building with the aim of extending basic and applied research and also of developing the production of these facilities in the current 5-year plan and in the subsequent period.

Having considered the progress in fulfilling decisions of the CPSU Central Committee on surmounting drunkenness and alcoholism, the Politburo noted that both at the center and in local areas, significant work is being undertaken to affirm a sober way of life, and to create an atmosphere of intolerance toward drunkenness. This is assisting in improving the moral atmosphere in society, and in strengthening labor discipline and law and order. All the same, this work is now being undertaken everywhere with the requisite persistence, combativeness, and consistency. In a number of places, it has recently weakened substantially.

Concern was expressed at the fact that, tolerated by local bodies, moonshine distilling has spread recently in some regions. The CPSU Central Committee [as heard] pointed to the need to activate work on fulfilling the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee aimed at eradicating drunkenness and alcoholism; to lend it new stimulus, and a systematic and effective nature; to provide a skillful blend of educational, economic, medical, and administrative and legal measures; and to more actively develop the movement toward a sober way of life.

A number of specific steps were mapped out for fundamentally improving anti-alcohol propaganda, for organizing the leisure of people, for improving their health, for the development of the material base, and for increasing the effectiveness of the work of the drug treatment services. Attention was drawn to the expansion of the production of consumer goods and of the services sector, as well as to the fulfillment of the retail plan.

The Politburo approved the results of the talks between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev with Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Central Committee, who was in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit. Particular attention was paid during the conversations to the processes of restructuring and renewal of various aspects of life being implemented in the Soviet Union and in Vietnam in keeping with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and of the 6th CPV Congress.

The accord struck on taking steps to increase the effectiveness of Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation and to advance it toward new progressive forms is of important significance.

Agreements have been signed on specific lines of cooperation. The complete unity of views of the CPSU and the CPV on the questions relating to bilateral relations and international life was noted with satisfaction. Emphasis was given to the fact that the Soviet Union will continue to cooperate closely with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in efforts to strengthen peace, stability and good-neighborliness in the Asian and Pacific region.

The results of conversations and talks between Comrades Gorbachev, Ryzhkov, and Shevardnadze and French Prime Minister Chirac were examined. It was noted that the present state of Franco-Soviet relations does not correspond to the requirements and potential of the two countries from either the viewpoint of their mutual interests or from that of their roles in European and in world affairs. The necessity was confirmed of continuing and deepening Soviet-French political dialogue and the hope was expressed of a constructive French approach to ensure international security by means of reducing nuclear confrontation and all types of weapons and armed forces, above all in Europe. The appropriate departments have been instructed jointly with the French to take measures toward implementing the ideas and proposals on activating bilateral links, which were also discussed.

A report from Comrade Solomentsev was heard on the participation of a CPSU delegation in the work of the 12th Congress of the Greek Communist Party, and on his conversation with Greek Prime Minister Papandreou. It was noted that the CPSU delegation's trip to Greece had facilitated the further development of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Greek peoples.

At the session of the CPSU Politburo, information was examined on Comrade Demichev's trip to the People's Republic of Bulgaria and on Comrade Dolgikh's trip to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the head of delegations from the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Information from Comrade Medvedev was heard on the participation of a CPSU delegation in the work of the Eighth SEW Congress in West Berlin. There was a discussion of Comrade Razumovskiy's report on the results of the conference for central committee secretaries from the socialist countries' communist and workers' parties engaged in organizational and party work which was held on 12 and 13 May in Bucharest. The activity at the conference of the CPSU delegation was approved. Several other questions of domestic and foreign policy were also discussed at the session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

GORBACHEV, OTHERS ATTEND SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

LD201342 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] A session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chaired by Comrade Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was held in the Kremlin today. The matter of the work of Soviets of People's Deputies of the city of Leningrad was examined in connection with preparations for the 70th anniversary of the GOSR. A report was delivered by Comrade Khodyrev, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Leningrad City Soviet of People's Deputies.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium then discussed the matter of the work of the Soviets of People's Deputies of Chelyabinsk Oblast. A report was heard by Comrade Kurakin, chairman of the executive committee of the Chelyabinsk Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies. Resolutions on the matters under discussion will be published in the press. The Presidium examined the matter of convening a regular, seventh, session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and also certain other matters relating to state life.

Taking part in discussion of the matters on the agenda were Comrades Gorbachev, Demichev and Yeltsin.

GROMYKO ADDRESSES 'OPEN' PRESIDIUM PARTY MEETING

PM201143 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 May 87 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "At Open Party Meeting"]

[Text] An open party meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium apparatus was held 18 May. A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, delivered a report on the subject "Tasks for Communists and All Staffers at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Apparatus in Further Fulfilling the Decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum."

LIGACHEV SPEAKS TO LEADERS ON AGRO-INDUSTRY

LD251739 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] A conference took place today in the CPSU Central Committee at which the course of fulfillment of the party and government decision on the development of processing industries and storage bases of the agro-industrial complex and the tasks of party, local soviet and economic bodies related to this question, were examained. Taking part in its work were Comrades Vorotnikov, Zaykov, Ligachev, Talyzin, and Nikonov, secretaries of the Central Committees of Communist Parties of union republic and of kraykoms and obkoms; ministers; chairmen of USSR state committees and tsentrsoyuz; senior personnel from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers and the RSFSR Council of Ministers; from the Moscow CPSU Gorkom; the AUCCTU: the Komsomol Central Committee; leaders of republic, kray and oblast agro-industrial committees, and enterprises of the processing sector and planning and design organizations, were invited to take part in the conference. Opening the conference, Comrade Ligachev stressed that among the multitude of questions through which restructuring ought to lead to profound changes, a special place is occupied by work to implement the food program. The CPSU Central Committee attaches very great attention to the fulfillment of the party and government decision on the development of bases for the storage and processing of agricultural output and considers the lagging behind which has been allowed to be the consequence of the underrating by ministries and departments and local party, local soviet and economic bodies of the importance and place of this sphere of production. Comrade Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, delivered a report. In a critical spirit an analysis was made of the state of the material and technical base of processing industries and the measures being taken to speed up its development and strengthening.

Speaking at the conference were: Yermin, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the RSFSR State Agro-Industrial Committee; Rybnikov, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan; Finogenov, USSR minister of the defense industry; Kolomiyets, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Agro-industrial Committee of the Ukrainian SSR; Reshetilov, minister of construction in northern and western regions of the USSR; (Lesovoy), chief of the Tyumen Oblast administration of the bakery industry; Vasilyev, USSR minister of machine building for light and food industry and household appliances; and Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Those who spoke concentrated attention on unresolved problems; reasons for the lagging behind of the storage and processing base; and on ways to overcome existing difficulties.

In summing up results of discussion, Comrade Ligachev stressed that what is required in this area of work are the serious efforts of central and local bodies. The development of the food industry and base for the storage of agricultural output must be given real priority. First and foremost this means not only ensuring the fulfillment of the current year's plan for capital construction, but also making up for the lagging behind permitted in 1986. The CPSU Central Committee will be strictly monitoring [kontrolirovat] the execution of this demand.

A most important aspect is the technical reequipping of production, and its renovation. At the same time, in a number of union republics there is no program for the technical reequipping of processing facilities, it is nuclear as to the enterprises in which it is being carried out, or how it is being financed, or what equipment is being provided. In short, things have been allowed to slide. In this regard, critical remarks were addressed to the Councils of Ministers, the agro-industrial committees and the party and local soviet bodies of the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

Particular emphasis was laid on the development of machine building for the food industry. Without high-productivity technology there is no way of achieving a radical turning point, or a technological breakthrough in the agricultural and fish produce processing and storage industries. The leaders of the industrial ministries, the USSR Council of Ministers machine-building bureau, and the USSR Gosagroprom bear full responsiblity for the timely fulfilment of the decisions adopted by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on the creation and supply to the food industry of world class machinery and equipment.

Comrade Ligachev directed the attention of the local bodies to the need for the maximum utilization of the existing opportunities in tackling this problem. There are such examples in the country: in the Estonian SSR, in Voroshilovgrad, Sverdlovsk, Moscow, Murmansk and certain other oblasts, the manufacture of equipment for the production of food, fish and other produce has been established. It is essential to employ more fully the right granted to republics, krays and oblasts to include the production of equipment for food in the program of industrial enterprises, and to provide them with material and technical resources as part of their plan.

I fully share and support the opinions expressed here concerning the speeding up of the transition of alcohol making enterprises. This issue is of prime importance for an affirmation of a sober way of life, and for implementation of the opportunities for a rapid expansion in the provinces of production of many much needed foodstuffs.

In conclusion, Comrade Ligachev touched on the topical tasks of increasing agricultural production; the wide-scale introduction of intensive technolgies for the cultivation of agricultural crops; the provision of high quality fodder for livestock; increasing the milk productivity of cattle; the employment of all reserves to increase the production of meat and other produce using the cheap, summer fodder; and the all-round preparation for harvesting.

CPSU Central Committee departments are charged with the task of crystallizing proposals and remarks expressed at the conference and monitoring their implementation.

In the party's struggle for the implementation of the Food Program, the press, television and radio occupy an active position. It is important that the efforts of the mass media and propaganda organs in this direction are rather stepped up.

This year is a special, anniversary year. It should be marked with good results in the pursuance of the policy of acceleration, restructuring, and in the fulfilment of the socialist pledges adopted in honor of the 70th anniversary of October.

CPSU PANEL DISCIPLINES AZERBAIJANI OFFICIALS

PM261241 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 May 87 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee. On Serious Shortcomings in Implementing the 27th CPSU Congress Decisions on Improving the Training of Skilled Worker Cadres and Carrying Out the Reform of Vocation Education in the Azerbaijan SSR"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee has discussed the results of checks to verify implementation of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions on issues relating to improving the training of skilled worker cadres and reforming vocational education in the Azerbaijan SSR.

The resolution approved by the committee notes that the leaders of a number of party and soviet organs, the State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, and other ministries and departments in the Azerbaijan SSR have failed to draw the proper conclusions from the 27th CPSU Congress decisions on the need to develop the system of vocational and technical education and improve the training of skilled workers in line with the requirements of scientific and technical progress, and permit serious shortcomings in the implementation of the vocational school reform.

The republic is failing to make full use of available potential to transfer to universal vocational education for young people. Unsystematic campaigns are permitted in this work and the efforts of soviet, economic, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and labor collectives are badly coordinated. Interdepartmental education commissions under the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, the Nakhichevan ASSR Council of Ministers, and local ispolkoms lack initiative in their approach.

The republic's State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education (Chairman Comrade G.I. Isayev) has failed to restructure the style and methods of leadership of vocational schools in the spirit of the requirements set by the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and tolerates serious shortcomings in the selection and training of leading and engineering teaching cadres.

The republic's VUZ's do not train lecturers for the vocational and technical education system, yet almost half of them do not have a higher education. Among the directors of secondary vocational and technical schools two-thirds have higher education in the humanities but only two are trained to teach engineering. Only 40 of 5,500 secondary vocational and technical school instructors are trained to teach engineering.

Engineering and technical personnel at enterprises, highly skilled workers, progressive workers, and production innovators are not being involved in teaching work as production training instructors, as envisaged by party and government decisions. Approximately 30 percent of leading workers have not improved their qualifications for 6-10 years. In the last 3 years only 1,600 instructors, or less than one-third of the total, have undergone on-the-job training. In this same period 22 percent of school directors, their deputies, heads of training departments, and senior instructors have been relieved of their duties for failing to cope with their assigned tasks, and 800 senior instructors and production training instructors have been replaced.

The organization of the teaching process is not in line with the reform's requirements. Many teachers have a poor knowledge of their subject, conduct their lessons to low theoretical and methodological standards, and grade up their assessments of students. The schools are not supplied with enough programs, textbooks, and visual teaching aids. The progress rate in some specialized and general educational disciplines, particularly the Russian language, is poor.

The process by which social disciplines are taught does not mold in every student modern economic and political thinking, a firm knowledge of the laws of social life, and a scientific conception of the economic and social laws of the historical development of Soviet society and of the revolutionary essence of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. One of the most important tasks of the reform -- to increase students' responsibility for the quality of their knowledge and for their discipline -- is being poorly resolved.

The committee resolution emphasizes that the State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, ministries, and departments have failed to take the appropriate measures to strengthen schools' teaching materials base. Schools are short of one-third of the required number of production training workshops, 93 percent of the required number of training sites, 650 tractors, and a large number of metal-cutting machine tools and other equipment. Many workshops are provided with obsolete, worn-out equipment. Almost 50 percent of all rural schools do not have training farms. More than 70 schools are housed in adapted buildings.

Many leaders of base enterprises and particularly of organizations in the agro-industrial complex take an irresponsible attitude to strengthening schools' material and technical base.

Teaching buildings and other projects for vocational and technical schools are badly built by construction organizations. In the 11th 5-Year Plan only 68.9 percent of capital investments allocated for these purposes were assimilated, and in 1986 the figure was 67 percent.

As checks have shown, the republic's Gosplan (Deputy Chairman Comrade F.A. Faradzhev) and State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education plan workers' training without considering the real needs of the national economy. In 1986 ministries and departments submitted applications for only 56,100 people whereas the plan provided for the admission of 75,100 people. A similar situation has arisen this year. Too many workers are trained for some professions, whereas not enough are trained for work in other areas — the servicing of computers, robot equipment, and machine tools with program control, in particular. In a number of academic institutions cadre training is not speciality-based, which lowers the quality of the training and causes students to drop out. There are cases where the republic's ministries, departments, and enterprises refuse to place in employment young workers trained in schools at their specific request.

The number of vocational and technical school graduates remaining in industry is less than 70 percent. There is a large turnover of young workers in construction enterprises, light industry, and some other sectors, mainly because of the poor standard of labor organization and remuneration and the absence of the requisite housing and consumer service conditions. There are cases of illegal dismissal.

Social problems are also being solved unsatisfactorily in vocational and technical schools. Less than half of all students are provided with places in hostels. The number of canteens and their capacity is extremely inadequate, and meets only 54 percent of demand. As many as 58 schools not only have no canteen but do not even have snack bars, and they also do not have enough tableware. The Ministry of Trade and Potrebsoyuz do not supply canteens with enough meat, dairy, and vegetable products.

The republic's Ministry of Health fails to properly supervise students' health care system and the organization of their everyday life, leisure, medical treatment, and sanitary measures. One out of three schools has no medical center, and those that do exist are not provided with essential equipment and medicines.

The leaders of vocational and technical schools, their party and Komsomol organizations, and members of law enforcement organs are failing to take the proper measures to eradicate incidents of immoral behavior, hooliganism, and various other infringements of the law among students. A decisive struggle is not being waged against gambling, drug addiction, and drunkenness.

The Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Council of Ministers have failed to show great exactingness toward the party committees and leaders of the State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, ministries, departments, vocational and technical schools, and base enterprises regarding implementing party and government decisions on radically improving the training and education of young workers cadres within the vocational and technical education system and reforming vocational schools.

The resolution approved by the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee draws the attention of Comrade R.E. Mekhtiyev, secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, and Comrade F.G. Akhmedov, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, to the fact that the leaders of the republic's ministries, departments, and local party and soviet organs have unsatisfactorily implemented the resolution adopted by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers "On Further Developing the Vocational and Technical Education System and Enhancing Its Role in the Training of Skilled Worker Cadres."

Note was taken of their statements that the necessary conclusions will be drawn from the discussion of this issue in the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee, measures will be taken to eliminate the shortcomings revealed by the checks, and demands on cadres at all levels regarding carrying out the reform of vocational schools, and strengthening vocational and technical schools' material and technical base, improving the planning of training for young workers and their employment in the national economy, and eliminating serious shortcomings in students' vocational, general educational, ideological, and moral training and in the social, consumer, and cultural services with which they are provided will be increased.

Comrade G.I. Isayev, member of the CPSU and chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, was issued with a strict reprimand for serious shortcomings in implementing party and government resolutions on further developing the system of vocational and technical eduation and enhancing its role in the training of skilled worker cadres. Comrade F.A. Faradzhev, member of the CPSU and deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Gosplan, was censured for permitting shortcomings and errors in the planning of the training of worker cadres in the vocational and technical education system.

The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee noted the statement by Comrade A.P. Dumachev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, that the state committee will step up monitoring of the implementation of the vocational school reform in the Azerbaijan SSR and will assist the republic's organs in eliminating the shortcomings noted in the resolution.

ARTISTS' UNION ENDS CONGRESS, ELECTS OFFICIALS

PM260813 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 May 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "The RSFSR Artists' Congress Has Ended"]

[Text] The Sixth RSFSR Artists' Congress which ended in Moscow 27 May called on the masters of visual arts to actively join in the revolutionary process of the restructuring of society and to uphold and translate into reality the fundamental principles of socialist realism -- the principles of artistic truth, party spirit, and popular character.

The resolution adopted focuses attention on the civic mission of the arts and defines the program for the arts' contribution to the improvement of society's spiritual life and the better utilization of the creative potential of the republic's multinational visual arts in the communist education of the Soviet people.

The congress deprived the Leningrad graphic artist Yu.K. Lyukshin of his deputy's mandate for unworthy conduct and violation of the democratic procedures governing the discussion of the questions on the agenda.

The congress elected a new RSFSR Artists' Union Board and auditing commission.

Delegates to the Seventh USSR Artists' Congress were elected.

The final session of the congress was attended by A.N. Yakovlev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Yu.P. Voronov, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Culture Department.

The first plenum of the RSFSR Artists' Union Board elected at the Sixth RSFSR Artists' Congress met.

Plenum elected V.M. Sidorov chairman of the RSFSR Artists' Union Board, and A.V. Vasnetsov first secretary of the board.

DEMICHEV PRESENTS VARIOUS AWARDS IN KREMLIN

LD221543 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] In the Kremlin today Comrade Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, gave Soviet awards to a group of comrades.

The Order of Lenin was given to Shmarin, People's Artiste of the USSR. Writer Firsov has been awarded the Order of the October Revolution. Orders of the Red Banner of Labor have been given to: Borisenkov, second secretary of the Moscow Obkom; Davydov, first deputy chief of the Transportation and Communications Department of the CPSU Central Committee; and Khachaturov, deputy chairman of the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY board. Kozarev, a veteran of Soviet diplomacy, and other comrades, were awarded the Order of the Friendship of the Peoples. Bronevoy, artiste of the Moscow theater, received the official document of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium conferring on him the honorary title People's Artiste of the USSR.

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government, Comrade Demichev warmly congratulated the award recipients and wished them active work for the benefit of the homeland.

The award recipients expressed deep gratitude to the CPSU for the high appraisal of their work and assured that they will not spare efforts and energy in the cause of speeding up the country's social and economic development and the implementation of restructuring tasks.

COMMISSION INVESTIGATES ACCIDENT AT UKRAINE MINE

LD181437 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1411 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Donetsk, 18 May (TASS) -- A governmental commission is working at Chaykino mine, in Donetsk Oblast. The elimination of the results and the clarification of the causes of the methane explosion that entailed loss of life is continuing. The accident involved only one of the four sections of the mine and is of local dimensions.

Answering a question from a TASS correspondent, Aleksandr Lyashko, chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, who is head of the governmental commission, said that the scientists and specialists who are carrying out the investigation have not found yet any violations of safety rules. Therefore, some time will have to pass before any conclusions can be made.

Naturally, the miners are very upset about what has happened, Aleksandr Lyashko continued, yet, at the same time, they are taking an active role in eliminating the consequences of the disaster. The families of those who died are receiving care and attention from the administration, and public organizations. Members of the governmental commission will talk with every family that suffered from the accident. The issues of providing pensions and proper social conditions for them will be examined.

Cause Not Found Yet

LD201415 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1330 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Donetsk, 20 May (TASS) -- Prominent scientists and specialists from various areas of knowledge have been drawn to clarify the circumstances surrounding the explosion of methane gas at the "Chaykino" mine. But an answer to the question on reasons for the catastrophe has still not been found. The event, as was stressed at a meeting of the governmental commission, was an unusual one and will require a certain amount of time to reach any conclusions.

Experts representing three major scientific-research institutes of the coal industry are into their 6th day of work at the mine. They are conducting tests and experiments with the use of computing equipment and modern laboratory equipment.

Instruments at the station for seismic-acoustic forecasting of sudden emissions continuously keep "their ears" close to the ground. They are registering the level of seismic vibrations, and record the sounds arising in the body of the mine on magnetic tape, and simultaneously record industrial noises of machines and mechanisms in operation.

The seismogram today is one of the documents which can help determine the causes of what occurred. Scientists are interested in precisely what mechanisms were working just before and just at the moment of the explosion. Specialists, while conducting their own research, are at the same time studying information on explosions at mines throughout the world to carry out a comparison with what happened at "Chaykino".

Leaders Send Condolences

LD171003 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0925 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 17 May (TASS) -- There was loss of life during a methane explosion which occurred on Saturday at the Chaykino mine in Donetsk Oblast (Ukraine). The CPSU Central Committee, The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government have expressed profound condolences to the families and relatives who died, and to the mine's workers and white-collar staff. Measures have been taken to assist the families of the miners killed, to find out the causes, and to eliminate the consequences of the accident.

POEM RECALLS STALIN'S REMOVAL FROM MAUSOLEUM

PM191400 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 May 87 p 6

[Untitled poem by Stanislav Kunyayev]

[Text]

Grandma and I have dragged in from the shed
A bucket of coal to kindle the stove
We watch the spirals of blue flame
Flicker above the black heap of coal,
And grandma, hunching her shoulders against the cold,
Interrogates clever me:
Pelageya told me, honey,
They chucked Stalin out of the Mausoleum
The other day, for his cruel deeds...
I say: But your daughter Polina,
Did she not spend seventeen years
Further off than Sakhalin, at his word?
But grandma prods the coal with a poker,
The coal her grandson steals from the power station:
Honey, I don't know anything about
Who is to blame.
                  But his soldiers
Lie in the ground, and my Serezha is one of them...
We watch in silence -- the blue flames
Engulf the black anthracite,
And it is warm in our little room,
But grandma, I see, pities everyone in the world,
All who are buried, and all who are unburied.

ACADEMICIAN REJECTS OSSIFIED THEORY, DOGMATISM

PM211535 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 May 87 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Academician Oleg Bogomolov, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of the Economics of the World Socialist System, conducted by unnamed own correspondent under the "Restructuring and the Economic Mechanism" rubric: "Political Economy's Contribution to Economics"]

[Text] [Correspondent] The CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum spoke about the backwardness of theory, the overcoming of which, including in political economy, is one of the basic prerequisites for restructuring. In your view, wherein lies the responsibility of political economic thought for the appearance of braking mechanisms in our economy?

[Bogomolov] Unfortunately, ossified theory, dogmatism, and oversimplified, sometimes distorted, interpretation of the classical legacy of Marxism-Leninism has done great harm to management practice. The postulates of handbooks of the political economy of socialism were drawn not from analysis and generalization of actual reality but were based on a selection of quotations from the classics that were useful for demonstrating their own ideas. Any attempt to critically reinterpret canonized precepts was cut short and quite often with "practical conclusions" for dissenters. Science was required to make its conclusions fit the established canons. Such a "science" led practice astray. Therefore the theoretical groundwork thanks to which the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress became possible took shape over a long period in private, as it were.

[Correspondent] Could you illustrate this by example?

[Bogomolov] There are quite a few examples. I'll concentrate on one of the most typical. I am thinking of the political economic interpretation of socialist ownership.

The correct interpretation of the nature and forms of socialist ownership greatly determines our understanding of other economic categories, in particular, commodity production and the law of value, and above all the formation of the economic management mechanism. Traditionally we have talked about the existence of two forms of socialist ownership of the instruments and means of production: State ownership -- or ownership by all the people -- and cooperative-kolkhoz ownership. It was thought that the second did not sufficiently accord with the principles of socialism and for that reason was inferior.... Thus the problem of further developing ownership relations was reduced to overcoming the differences between its two forms by "hauling" cooperative ownership up to the level of ownership by all the people. A managerial practice was constructed in the spirit of this theory and a process of partial or whole state incorporation of cooperatives took place: Producers' cooperatives were abolished and kolkhozes were converted to sovkhozes. All this caused considerable damage.

But even this was perhaps not the most important thing here. Ownership by all the people was itself regarded as a given datum exempt from development and improvement. The laws of dialectics did not apply to it and, consequently, the organizational forms and methods of management shaped in the thirties were perpetuated. After all, there is a direct, immediate link between ownership relations and economic management. Command-based management methods and bureaucratic centralism gathered strength....

[Correspondent] What new elements are appearing today, in your opinion, in our understanding of the nature of socialist ownership?

[Bogomolov] This problem still needs to be studied in depth at present. It is therefore easier to point out gaps in the theory of socialist ownership than to positively set out a new appreciation. There is, for example, the producer's alienation from the means of production, his loss of control over them, the emergence of property belonging to no one, as it were, free [besplatnyy], and without a real owner. The phenomenon whereby ownership by all the people is eroded by narrow departmentalism and parochialism and the emergence of group ownership, as it were, by particular departments are also noteworthy.

How can all this be explained theoretically? One of the reasons for these phenomena is rooted, in my view, in an oversimplified unerstanding of the /real/ [slantlines denote boldface as published] (as distinct from the legally stated) ownership relations, in disregard of the requirements of the law that production relations be in conformity with the nature of the productive forces. Wherever the productive forces themselves became large or superlarge and the process of socializing production went far /in practice/ [slantlines denote boldface as published] there had to emerge ownership relations other than those in spheres where medium-size, small, and even family or individual production processes are natural and economical. Otherwise there is an inevitable inflation of bureaucratic superstructures which are formally, albeit not actually, socialising small enterprises — which deprives them of independence in managing their affairs and of the incentive to improve them. Hence also the alienation of the producer and the emasculation of the very essence of economic accountability [khozyaystvennyy raschet].

All world experience indicates that the modern economy is an interweaving of major industry and major enterprises, which determine its aspect, and a mass of medium, small, and very small enterprises. While retaining their independence the latter are often drawn into the orbit of big business but without being dissolved in it. There is only one conclusion here: The socialist economy needs a certain diversity of forms of ownership corresponding to the real processes of the concentration, centralization, and decentralization of production. It is therefore wrong, for example, to constrain the development of cooperative ownership by erasing the boundaries separating it from state ownership. The existence of communal ownership by local soviets is also justified.

[Correspondent] It thus turns out that the form of ownership is connected in some fashion with its scale. But do we not have here a manifestation of the same dogma but in different wording? You say that only small enterprises which are simple to manage can be cooperatives. It seems that nevertheless cooperative ownership is not as refined as ownership by all the people. What does theory have to say here, can an industrial giant like the Volga Automobile Plant, say, be cooperatively owned?

[Bogomolov] Theoretically, yes. And major enterprises based on cooperative ownership are operating successfully in practice in a number of socialist countries, Hungary and Czechoslovakia for example. If cooperative principles had not been curtailed in our country in the past, it is possible that we would now have cooperative giants. Any development is dialectical. State ownership is also far from homogeneous and has its own internal differences, transitional forms, and development stages.

To elucidate this it is necessary to turn to the definition of ownership given by the founding fathers of Marxism. In their teaching ownership is defined as regarding the means of production as you would your own property, an attitude which characterizes the method whereby the means of production and the workers are united and the appropriation of the created output achieved.

The owner and the imediate producer (in both cases, whether a private individual or a collective) may not and often do not coincide, and the relationship of the "owners of the conditions [usloviya] of production" to the immediate producers reveals, in Marx' words, the profound basis of the whole social system. Under socialism these relations are not simple or transparent, since the owner (the whole people) and the immediate producer (the collective of an enterprise) are distinct.

Ownership is exercised through the appropriation of the means of production and its results and by monitoring that appropriation. The manifestation of ownership relations is complicated when the owner [sobstvennik] is separate from the proprietor [vladelets] (the manager or administrator) and the user of the means of production. The tenant of a plot of land is not its owner but effectively possesses it by using it, and appropriates part of the revenue.

Under socialism the land, plants, railways, and so forth belong to the state as the representative of the entire people, but it is the ministries, collectives, and agricultural cooperatives which are their managers, one could even say their actual proprietors. The process of appropriation is also modified accordingly, and the relations of ownership by all the people are mediated.

[Correspondent] Herein probably lie the weak points in the link between Marxist theory and socialist practice, points weak to the extent that they often simply burst: Enterprises produce goods that society does not need, ministries, contrary to the interests of individual enterprises and society as a whole, pursue their own narrow departmental policy, and common property is hived away into aeas of local interest.

[Bogomolov] That is why the strengthening of socialist ownership of the means of production by all the people presupposes improving the mechanisms for the whole of society to monitor the augmentation of this ownership and the appropriation of the results of production. Therefore the more fully socialist democracy is realized and the more extensively all working people are involved in management of the national economy, the more ownership by all the people is distinguished by maturity and consistency.

[Correspondent] By improving the institutions of socialist democracy — the soviets, say — it is possible to achieve effective monitoring, so to speak, of the augmentation of ownership. But is it possible to resolve solely by means of such monitoring the problems of distributing the created good?

[Bogomolov] Of course not. But nor can you avoid the reality: The fat that the means of production belong to all members of society can by no means always be directly linked to their participation in the appropriation of the aggregate results of production. In a multimillion-strong society this participation is on the whole problematic. But without this link socialist ownership relations become deformed: Property becomes subjectless, belonging to no one. However, we already know how to resolve this contradiction — by separating the function of owner from the functions of manager, immediate proprietor, or user of the property. If a plant labor collective works according to the principles of self-financing and self-recoupment, it becomes, as it were, the master (proprietor) of the means of production leased from the state (the whole of society). Its revenue (appropriation of the results of production) is directly dependent on the maintenance and augmentation of that part of the property belonging to all the people that it has been granted. Here property also acquires its subject. Essentially it functions in dual form: ownership by all the people and collective ownership, wherein the second is determined by the first. Marx allowed such duality, incidentally, by analyzing communal land ownership. This joining of the immediate producer and the means of production as envisaged by complete economic accountability must be regarded as a development of socialist ownership relations or, more accurately, their liberation from distortions due to oversimplification and the dogmatic application in practice of the legal definition of ownership by all the people.

If enterprise collectives are transformed into real masters of the means of production allocated to them and are materially accountable for preserving and augmenting them, then the relations among them cannot fail to be built on the principles of equivalent commodity exchange, as is the case among different owners, even though this property is indeed "leased" from the state. Perhaps this all sounds too theoretical and complex. Nevertheless, we are talking about the fundamental bases of our economic life.

[Correspondent] Many socialist countries are encountering commodity deficits and output shortages of one kind or another. The West claims that scarcity in general is inherent in the socialist economy. How does political economic science view this?

[Bogomolov] The existence of chronic shortages is connected with the inadequate planned management of a number of national economic processes and proportions. But that, of course, does not answer the question because it begs yet another -- "Why?": Why has it not been possible to take individual economic processes and proportions under control by all the people and to balance market supply and demand? There are many reasons, including some erroneous political economic notions on which planning continues to rely.

The formula of the basic economic law of socialism given by Stalin is still recognized in the political economy of socialism. It states: "Ensuring the maximum satisfaction of the constantly increasing material and cultural requirements of the whole of society by means of the continuous growth and improvement of socialist production on the basis of the highest technology." According to Marx the first (that is, the main or basic) economic law based on collective production is the law governing the saving of time and the planned distribution of work time among the various production sectors. As Marx stressed, it becomes a law even at a far higher level. It is not hard to see that the main aim of the development of production is determined in the first and second instances in different -- if not to say opposing -- ways. Toward what should the entire mechanism of the planning and regulation of the economy be oriented under socialism? If the answer is toward the maximum satisfaction of demands -- in other words, exclusively toward the production of use values, thereby relegating to second or third place the saving of production costs, that is, the saving of work time -- then inevitably a proportion of the planned demands will remain unsatisfied because of the insufficiency of the overall work time available. If the main factor is the production of use values and benefits, and the cost factor plays a subordinate role, then there is then a great temptation to -- for instance -- accumulate surplus stocks of raw and other materials, and wastefulness in capital construction and the considerable overrunning of estimated expenditure become justified. In brief, shortages and inflationary trends are generated.

The Stalinist interpretation of the basic economic law of socialism gives rise to another question. The decisive condition for the ultimate establishment of the new system is, according to Lenin, to endow it with a higher level of social labor productivity than that of capitalism. The question is: How can this condition be observed given that capitalist production is geared to the comprehensive reduction of costs (the saving of labor) so as to maximize profits, whereas socialist production is geared to satisfying demands often by disregarding costs? Is it not clear that only when the planning and regulation of the socialist national economy have been subordinated to the maximization of national income and comprehensive time-saving while satisfying society's existing needs is it possible to catch up with the industrially developed countries of the West in terms of labor productivity.

Generally speaking, it would be naive to formulate economic laws on the premise that everything here is the opposite of everything over there. Many elements of the socialist mode of production ripen within the bowels of capitalism. By no means all the historically developed forms of economic activity and economic relations are discarded by the new system, and by no means everything is rebuilt anew. Much is reworked and transformed and acquires new content. Thus, the objective need -- given pride of place by Marx -- for the comprehensive saving of time (that is, labor and costs) under socialist conditions and its proportional distribution among the various sectors is the logical continuation of the historically determined objective law of economic development. The new system must not try to abolish it -- clearly, it cannot -- but instead must intensify it, raise it to a higher level as it were. Unfortunately, our system of planning and regulation is still insufficiently subordinated to that objective law.

In conclusion I would say that, together with the restructuring of political economic thinking, it is also logical to expect here a restructuring of planning which will restore the paramount role of the cost criteria and the proportions of our economic progress.

CONFERENCE VIEWS STATE ACCEPTANCE PROGRESS

PM221137 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Apr 87 p 1

[LENTASS report: "State Acceptance: First Lesson"]

[Text] The struggle to improve the quality and technical standard of production is a very important task of labor collectives and every production worker and specialist. State acceptance of products is a crucial and fundamental step in tackling this problem and also the problem of the competitiveness of products. It has been introduced at 48 associations, plants, and factories in Leningrad and its oblast. The results of their work in the first quarter of the current year in conditions of extradepartmental control were examined at a conference at the Smolnyy, in which economic leaders, party committee secretaries, and state acceptance representatives took part.

The report by V.V. Okrepilov, director of the Leningrad Center for Standardization and Metrology and chairman of the Council of State acceptance organ leaders, and other speeches noted that everywhere questions of improving output quality constitute the basis of enterprise collectives' work. Matters are not proceeding without difficulties, but the first positive results are already apparent. Matters are proceeding best wherever collectives have prepared in advance for the new form of control and where representatives of the State Committee for Standards together with the production workers are seeking to impose order, where rhythm and technological discipline are being observed, where normative-technical documentation is being reviewed, and where modernization of the outdated control and measuring base is in progress.

At the same time, the conference pointed out, state acceptance has exposed several shortcomings in enterprises' work. Tightening control has caused interruptions in production rhythm. [paragraph continues]

The steady output of high-quality products is not being ensured because of unsatisfactory organizations of planning, the low quality of subassemblies, nonobservance of the demands of technology, and poor planning and design documentation. A number of enterprises have failed to create quality groups and to ensure a direct link between wage levels and the qualitative results of labor. The services of the technical control sections are in need of improvement. The number of complaints is decreasing only slowly.

It was stressed that the state acceptance organs must not simply record deviations from standards but, together with plant specialists, must get to the root causes and seek to eliminate them as rapidly as possible. Here it is important to increase cooperation in tackling key questions of production organization and technology, which influence the quality of products.

Instances were examined of the output of products accepted by the state acceptance organs but not in line with standards. Those guilty of flagrant violations of the rules of state acceptance were punished. This must be a serious lesson to the leaders and all employees of extradepartmental control organs.

A.M. Fateyev, secretary of Leningrad CPSU Obkom, addressed the conference.

ACADEMICIAN DISCUSSES MINISTRIES' ROLE IN REFORMS

PM260839 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 13 May 87 p 2

[Article by Doctor of Juridical Sciences Yu. Tikhomirov, chief of the Law and Management Psychology Faculty at the USSR Council of Ministers Academy of the National Economy: "Without Petty Tutelage"]

[Text] Moscow -- The decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and the draft law on state enterprises are imbued with ideas of the democratic restructuring of economic life. Boosting the masses' activeness and really involving them in the running of production while retaining centralized leadership of the economy is a task of paramount importance.

The basic production component... Today it has become the axis for the restructuring of the economic mechanism, and it is no accident that for the first time in our economy's history its status is to be established by law rather than by resolution, as used to be the case. The main task during the forthcoming economic restructuring is to ensure a certain autonomy [samostoyatelnost] for basic production components.

First and foremost, enterprises (associations) should finally receive the right to a voice at the planning stage. Once switched to economic accountability, they themselves will have an interest in intensive plans, and therefore they can be boldly entrusted with drawing up 5-year and annual targets on the basis of control figures, economic normatives, and state orders. It is also necessary to guarantee enterprises' right to determine their own requirements for resources and to acquire them predominantly through wholesale trade. Clearly, it is also a good idea to give enterprises the right to choose the forms and systems of workers' pay.

Restructuring will probably also encompass the management sphere within enterprises themselves. Administration by decree must be replaced by self-management by labor collectives. This is the real embodiment of the course of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum of developing socialist democracy and the masses' active creativity. [paragraph continues]

I am referring above all to labor collectives' right to influence enterprises' economic policy and elect leaders themselves, which essentially means a revolutionary turnaround in the management sphere.

However, when talking about economic restructuring, certain people react to centralized management in a profoundly negative way, proposing to virtually reject it. Yet centralized leadership of the economy will have to be not only retained but strengthened in every possible way in the model of tomorrow's economic mechanism.

Certain people believe that the autonomy of associations and enterprises can be almost absolute, since complete economic accountability will make them self-regulating -- leaving central organs with almost nothing to do. This is a profoundly mistaken opinion since, in the conditions of a major national economic complex such as our economy, division into entirely autonomous cells cannot promote real progress. The "center" must be the lawmaker in determining main economic goals, the rates and proportions of the national economy, and its balance. A unified political line and an economic strategy worked out by the party and consistently implemented by all components of the political system and the economic mechanism are important.

Many components which currently implement centralized management have extremely fruitful experience at their disposal. The Supreme Soviets of the USSR and of union and autonomous republics are successfully carrying out their legislative activity, which creates a firm normative foundation for management and controls the management apparatus. The USSR Council of Ministers and republic governments are channeling the development of national economic sectors in the same direction. Government organs heading major national economic complexes -- the machine-building, fuel and energy, and construction complexes -- are pooling the efforts of many ministries in order to achieve high combined results.

Ministries are entrusted with sectorial management and state committees are entrusted with intersectorial management, without which it is impossible to ensure the purposeful and comprehensive development of various national economic sectors. And it is precisely in this area of management that we currently have far more problems than successes. For many years, for instance, we have been unable to overcome tutelage of ministries by the Gosplan, Gossnab, and financial and economic departments. Internal and external ties between national economic complexes have not been completely worked out.

The question of the relationship between ministries and enterprises is particularly acute. Today to all intents and purposes ministries themselves impose plans on the basic component without its participation and allocate quotas and funds which are often totally uncoordinated with production plans. The lion's share of profits is taken away from enterprises just so that the ministries can later allocate funds to them for their many production and sometimes social and consumer service needs.

It is hard to call the methods currently used by the ministries to administer economic sectors. Yet is is with economic methods and their primacy that we are linking the entire economic restructuring.

That is why it is so important, now that a new statute on ministries is being drawn up (it would be better to adopt a law), to thoroughly check it against the principles of the draft law on enterprises currently under discussion in order to exclude administration by decree from the management arsenal forever.

Clearly the forthcoming changes will require a revision of certain organizational structures in the central apparatus. It would be sensible to think about introducing enterprise representatives to ministry collegiums, main administrations, and departments, scientific and technical councils, and problem-solving councils. It is worth resuming and regularly holding congresses of sector workers.

The nature of central subunits and their "blocs" should better reflect their functions. For instance, it would be good to combine the management of cadres, labor educational establishments, and social development into a single "human service department." We should be tougher in drawing up skill-related demands with regard to posts. Then, for instance, there will be no engineers compiling reports on socialist competition, and psychologists and lawyers will appear in cadre services.

The question of the actual system of the highest component of management is as topical as ever. Is it expedient to leave the current range of ministries as it is or should they be consolidated? If they are consolidated, to what extent? How is the territorial aspect to be taken into account? Perhaps we should take another look at the experience of the first years of Soviet power, when economic management organs were based on broad representation from the trade unions, soviets, the enterprises themselves, and so forth. In short, here too there are things which merit serious consideration.

The consistent restructuring of the economic mechanism and management, of which the forthcoming adoption of the law on enterprises (associations) is an intergral part, presupposes a number of stages. It will require, as has already been said, that we prepare acts pertaining to different components -- the ministries and state committees. It is necessary to also draw up laws on the basic principles of the economic and social development of the USSR and the union republics and to change labor legislation. Clearly there must also be concretizing provisions on the procedure for the election of leaders, the restitution of the damage done to enterprises as a result of incorrect actions by ministries, and so forth. In other words, it is necessary to strive to provide legal backup for restructuring following the "normative package" principle.

And finally we must give particular thought to changing the style of work and the nature of relationships between central organs and enterprises. It is easy to get used to using a "bossy" tone, it is much more difficult to unlearn it. Psychological restructuring must fall within the area of closest attention from ministerial and departmental party committees. After all, new businesslike contacts presuppose openness and the ability to reach verbal agreements and act independently.

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

COSMOS-1847 LAUNCHED 26 MAY, FUNCTIONING NORMALLY

LD270640 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0624 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Moscow 27 May (TASS) -- Another artificial earth satellite, Cosmos-1847, was launched in the Soviet Union on 26 May 87.

The satellite carries scientific apparatus for continuing space research. The satellite has been placed in an orbit with the following parameters: initial period of revolution -- 89.7 minutes; maximum distance from earth's surface 373 km; minimum distance from the earth's surface 177 km; orbital inclination -- 67.2 degrees.

The apparatus aboard the satellite is working normally.

COSMONAUTS' ACTIVITIES ABOARD MIR STATION UPDATED

LD261248 Moscow TASS in English 1113 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS -- Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin continue to work in orbit on board the orbital manned complex Mir.

Under the programme for today the crew will conduct geophysical research, routine preventive maintenance of individual onboard systems of the station and unload the automatic transport craft, Progress-30.

Under the programme to study the earth's natural resources and the environment, the cosmonauts will carry out a series of experiments whose purpose is to obtain photoinformation about various natural objects in narrow spectral zones.

Work is in progress to practise methods of controlling the movement of the orbital complex with the aid of gyroscopic power stabilizers installed in the Kvant module. Their use allows orientation and stabilization of the complex to be carried out with considerable conservation in the fuel of the uniform propulsion system engine.

According to telemetry and the crew's reports, the flight is proceeding normally.

Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin feel well.